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PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL ISSUES POLITICAL STATEMENT

JN191835Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1720 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Central Council [PCC] held a meeting in Damascus on Tuesday evening under the direction of brother Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], and in the presence of brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and of the brother members of the PLO Executive Committee. The meeting continued until dawn today, Wednesday. The PCC formed a committee to draft its political statement. This committee met in Damascus this afternoon and issued the following statement:

The PLO Central Council held a meeting in Damascus on 18 July under brother Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, and in the presence of the chairman and members of the PLO Executive Committee. The Executive Committee thoroughly reviewed the current situation and the latest developments in the Palestinian question at the local, Arab and international levels. It also reviewed all recent contacts and activities.

After discussing all issues, the PCC agreed on the following:

1. On the Palestinian level:

A. The PCC stresses the importance of overcoming the obstacles standing in the way of achieving national unity among all groups of the resistance movement through sound democratic principles and in keeping with a political program based on the resolutions of the national councils. It has been agreed that plans for national unity will be discussed at a meeting to be held within the next 2 weeks. This meeting will be attended by the PLO Executive Committee and the secretaries general of the resistance groups and certain members of the PCC with the aim of reaching a unified plan for national unity. This plan will be submitted to the PCC at an extraordinary meeting to be held from 18-20 August. The PCC stresses the need to adhere to a democratic dialog in tackling all internal issues among the resistance groups; to avoid internecine fighting; to stop propaganda campaigns; to end the mobilization of internal forces against each other; and to do away with instigations, particularly external instigations aimed at affecting the Palestinian arena.

B. The PCC hails our people in the occupied land who are bravely confronting the Zionist enemy, his aggressive colonialist policy and Zionist-imperialist-liquidationist plans. Our people in the occupied land are rallying around the PLO. The PCC stresses the need to double our common efforts to strengthen the struggle of our people in the occupied land and their national front under the leadership of the PLO. The PCC calls on the friendly Arab and Islamic countries to support their heroic steadfastness with material and moral means.

C. The PCC recommends that the PNC hold a meeting after the holy month of Ramadan. The venue and date of the meeting will be set at the next meeting of the Central Council.

2. At the Arab level:

A. The PCC discussed the grave situation created by the continuous concessions made by As-Sadat and the U.S. and Zionist plans aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue and striking at the PLO. The latest of these plans is [As-Sadat's] plan regarding the future of the occupied Arab land, which calls for returning parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Jordan and Egypt. This plan is identical to the U.S. plan which Vance brought to the area.

This plan ignores the Palestinian people's rights and struggle under the leadership of the PLO. This plan is also a blatant violation of the Rabat and Algiers summit conferences and of the UN General Assembly's resolutions. The PCC stresses that neither As-Sadat nor anyone else has the right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian Arab people or to negotiate or relinquish any part of Palestine. At the time when As-Sadat is continuing this serious policy through direct negotiations and meetings with the Zionist enemy and his allies in the FRG, Austria and London, there is talk of reviving Arab solidarity to insure a political coverup for this capitulatory move. In this regard the PCC calls for strengthening the front of steadfastness and confrontation to insure an effective confrontation of the Zionist-U.S. plot and its agents in the Arab area. The PCC warns every Arab party not to become involved in this plot.

B. The PCC adopts the PLO Executive Committee's memo to the Iraqi Government and denounces the stand of certain Iraqi organs which continue their hostility to the PLO. The PCC denounces the heinous criminal assassinations of strugglers 'Ali Nasir Yasin and Sa'id Hammami. The PCC greets these heroic martyrs who fell on the long, hard road of struggle.

3. In the Lebanese area:

The actions of the conspiratorial isolationist forces in Lebanon, under the leadership of the Phalangists and Sham'unists in collaboration with the Zionist enemy, are part of the plan being implemented by Zionist-U.S. agents in the area to liquidate the Palestinian question, strike at the Palestinian revolution and subjugate the entire Arab area to colonialist domination. In order to confront these conspiratorial activities and moves, the PCC calls on all national forces and masses, Moslems and Christians in Lebanon and in the Arab area, to rally around Syria and the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist forces.

The PCC stresses the need to strengthen solidarity and relations with all progressive and liberation forces in the world and with the friendly socialist countries, so as to insure a common, effective confrontation with imperialism and Zionism, the enemies of our nation, people and the peoples of the whole world.

Immortality to our martyrs and the pure martyrs of our Arab nation! It is a revolution until victory.

LONDON AD-DUSTUR ON SECRET SYRIAN-ISRAELI MEETING

JN190909Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The AD-DUSTUR magazine published on London has reported that the Syrian regime and the Zionist entity held secret talks in a European capital this week. The magazine added that the FRG arranged the meeting to discuss the situation in Lebanon. The FRG did this at Washington's request because the latter was busy preparing for the tripartite meeting of the Egyptian, Zionist and U.S. foreign ministers.

The paper stated that this means that the Syrian regime and the Zionist entity will reach an agreement on a political and geographical understanding at the expense of the warring parties in Lebanon. The paper also stated that it is difficult to envisage the far-reaching effects of this understanding which is expected to cover issues otherthan the Lebanese situation.

SAUDI ARABIA

KHALID RECEIVES MAURITANIAN LEADER'S MESSAGE

ID191205Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Jilda--King Khalid has received a message from Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery in Mauritania. The king received the message this morning when he received the Mauritanian delegation headed by Lt Col Mohamed Mahmoud Louly, member of the Military Committee and minister of control, investigations and national recovery. The meeting was attended by Prince Abdullah, 2d deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and commander of the National Guard; Dr Rashad Far'awn, the king's adviser; and Ahmad Ould Talbah, Mauritania's ambassador to the kingdom.

Lt Col Mohamed Louly arrived in Jilda yesterday heading a delegation including a number of Mauritanian officials.

UAE

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEAVES FOR BELGRADE

JN191752Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 July--UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah left Baghdad today for Belgrade to attend the conference of foreign ministers of the nonalined countries, which will be held on 25 July. 'Abdallah went to Baghdad on 16 July to represent the UAE in the celebrations marking Iraq's 17 July revolution anniversary.

YEMEN--PDRY

ADEN REPORTS MUHAMMAD'S AL-HURRIYAH INTERVIEW

LD191216Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politbuto and chairman of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers, has said that the progressive regime in Democratic Yemen has avoided propaganda bickering because of its concern for the Yemeni people and desire to spare the blood of its sons. In an interview, published by the Lebanese journal AL-HURRIYAH, he added that foreign forces hostile to the Yemeni people are instigating hostile propaganda campaigns to drag us into a war in which the blood of Yemenis will be shed [few words indistinct].

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his belief that the brothers in San'a' will now realize that bickering between the sons of Yemen serves only the enemies of the Yemeni people. He explained that, being loyal and sincere to the cause of the Yemeni people, the defense of their principles and the aims of their revolution and national sovereignty, we cannot drift onto the path which the enemies of our people want us to take. He recalled that the Yemeni people need to direct their efforts and potential toward defending national sovereignty, developing the standard of living of the countrymen and creating security and stability in the entire region.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad referred to the past experience of our people in defending the revolution and national sovereignty and said it showed others that tension, wars and conspiracy against us are profitless.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM ARRIVES IN ADEN

JN1913327 Manama Gulf News Agency in Arabic 1322 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 19 July--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here from San'a' today on a short visit. He is to convey a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council.

During his visit to San'a', the Syrian minister conveyed a message to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The contents of the message have not been disclosed.

ECONOMIC DELEGATION RETURNS FROM BUDAPEST

JN1914187 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1359 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 19 July--A PDRY economic delegation headed by Deputy Planning Minister 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir has returned from Budapest after a visit of several days.

During the visit, the delegation signed an agreement on economic cooperation under which the Hungarian Government will finance portions of the PDRY's 5-year development plan.

YEMEN--YAR

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT SALIH

JN1924397 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office at the Presidential Council at 1100 today 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Muhammad Khadir, director of the Arab Homeland Department in the Syrian Foreign Ministry. The meeting was attended by the Syrian ambassador in San'a', 'Abdallah Hamran, personal respresentative of the president; and Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj.

After the meeting, the YAR foreign minister made a statement to a SABA' NEWS AGENCY correspondent. He said that the Syrian foreign minister's talks were very useful [words indistinct] Israeli intransigent and provocative policy. The fraternal Syrian delegation acquainted itself with the reality of the situation in the YAR and showed complete understanding of the wise policy which the YAR Government is pursuing.

Khaddam conveyed to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih congratulations and best wishes from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and from the Syrian people to their brothers in the YAR.

Leaves San'a'

JN1913307 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpt] San'a'--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left San'a' this morning aften conveying a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic. The message deals with the current situation between the YAR and the PDRY and the current Arab situation.

CABINET MEMBERS SWORN IN BEFORE PRESIDENT SALIH

JN191352Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpt] The prime minister and ministers were sworn in at 1000 today at the Presidential Palace before brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

After they were sworn in the president asked them to stand for 1 minute in mourning for the late Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi and the pure martyrs of the revolution.

SALIH APPOINTS CHIEF OF STAFF, OTHERS

JN191340Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Decree No 11 for 1978 by the president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces concerning certain appointments in the armed forces.

The president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces:

In keeping with the permanent constitution and the constitutional declaration issued on 6 February 1978 forming the Constituent People's Assembly and as amended by the constitutional declaration issued on 22 April 1978 on steps to be taken in conjunction with the Constituent People's Assembly to define the form of the presidential office, its powers and term; in keeping with the Constituent People's Assembly's decision issued on 17 July 1978 on the election of brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; and in keeping with Law No 16 for 1975 concerning officers' service in the armed forces; I decree:

Article 1. Brother Lt Col 'Ali Salih ash-Shaybah shall be appointed chief of staff.
Article 2. Brother Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Barati shall be appointed deputy chief of staff.
Article 3. Brother Capt 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn al-Ghashmi shall be appointed as commander of special units.
Article 4. This decree is effective as of the day of its issuance and shall be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE and in the military publications.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in San'a' on 14 Sha'ban 1398 of the Hegira corresponding to 19 July 1978.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

KAMIL: NO AGREEMENT ON NEW MEETING WITH ISRAEL

NC192316Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2308 GMT 19 Jul 78 NC

[Text] London, 19 July--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has stated that no agreement had been reached at the Leeds meetings on convening any other meeting or on setting a venue or date for such a meeting. The foreign minister said that Egypt's position in this respect is clear. If Israel presents new elements and shows its readiness to implement its commitments to withdrawing and responding to the recovery of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, then, in this instance, Egypt would be ready for a meeting. Otherwise, Egypt will not be prepared for a meeting.

AS-SADAT DELIVERS SPEECH AT OAU MEETING IN KHARTOUM

For Cairo Domestic Service reportage on the text of the speech by President Anwar as-Sadat on 19 July at the OAU summit meeting in Khartoum, see the Inter-African Affairs section of the 20 July issue of the Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

INA: AS-SADAT, BOUMEDIENE MEET IN KHARTOUM

JN191232Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 19 July--A meeting was held this morning in the Hilton Hotel in Khartoum between Algerian President Houari Boumediene and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. The subjects discussed by the two sides are not yet known. Only Sudanese photographers were allowed to take pictures of the meeting.

HUSNI MUBARAK TO VISIT PARIS, MOROCCO, IRAN

NC200718Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0636 GMT 20 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 July--The newspaper AL-AHRAM today reports that Vice President Husni Mubarak on Sunday will begin his expected visit to Paris to meet with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. The paper says that Mubarak's visit will also include Morocco and Iran, where he will have discussions on the latest developments in Africa. While President Anwar as-Sadat was in Vienna he contacted the French president by telephone and agreed to send Husni Mubarak to Paris for talks on developments in Africa.

AL-AKHBAR ON MOSCOW RADIO, DISSIDENTS' TRIAL

NC200900Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 Jul 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AKHBAR asks whether Egypt can treat the Soviet Union with the same logic with which the Soviet Union is treating the foreign press, which the Soviet Union believes is publishing false, slanderous reports about the Soviet Union. The paper asserts that the logical answer is yes.

The paper notes in this respect that the Soviets have issued a decision permanently expelling U.S. journalists from the Soviet Union. They were expelled for publishing a report which the Soviet authorities consider defamatory to the Soviet Union. The report says that one of the Soviet dissidents who have been sentenced to hard labor, imprisonment and banishment had made a confession under duress.

If we were to treat the Soviet correspondents in Egypt with the same logic, we would have expelled them all from Egypt and banned them from ever coming to Egypt again. We have material evidence in the fantastic reports and stories which Moscow Radio's Arabic beam broadcasts daily. These reports slander the Egyptian people and instigate the overthrow of the Egyptian regime. But we do no such thing. We let the Soviet correspondents enjoy complete freedom of movement and meet whomever they want. Their dispatches to Moscow are not subjected to any kind of censorship. We even address official invitations to them to attend the press conferences given by the president and the ministers. They are free to ask anything at such press conferences. Despite this, the Soviet Union is daily accusing us of going back on democracy and of suppressing every voice. It even disseminates reports that the detention camps in Egypt are full of hundreds of detainees.

The paper then says that the Soviet Union imagines that it can influence the Egyptian people by broadcasting things that are so trivial that no small state with dignity would allow its radio to broadcast them. The paper affirms that those who draw up the Soviet propaganda plan directed at Egypt and the Arab countries are very stupid or slaves to orders issued to them by the Soviet leadership. They do not stop to think that such methods defame the Soviet Union in the eyes of the Arab people, make it lose respect and expose it to ridicule.

The paper points out that at a time when Moscow is broadcasting such lies, the secret trials of Soviet dissidents are being held without any defense guarantees and the press is not allowed to attend.

The dissidents got sentences of up to 15 years hard labor for having demanded human rights. This is considered a grave crime. The trials revealed that the Soviet Government has arrested 140 opponents and has sent them to mental hospitals, where they are treated as lunatics. All this has been reported by the world press and many heads of states have protested it. Other governments have also denounced this despicable oppression of humanity and lack of respect for human dignity. Some governments are now considering adopting a decision to boycott the next Olympic Games, which will take place in the Soviet Union, as an international expression of protest against the denial of human rights in the Soviet Union.

All this is reported and broadcast morning and night by the world press and radios. Moscow Radio imagines that when it addresses trivial lies to the Egyptian people it is addressing a people who are ignorant, isolated from the world or living behind an iron curtain which prevents them from hearing the news of the world just as the Soviet citizen is living without personal and political freedom.

The paper expresses its conviction that if the Soviet correspondents in Cairo enjoyed freedom of expression, they would have advised their government to stop the cheap buffoonery broadcast by Moscow Radio in order to preserve their country's reputation as a major power. The bloody role of this major power in South Yemen has been exposed. Its role in Iraq, the government of which has executed 40 Iraqi communists and threatens further executions, has also been exposed. Saddam Husayn, the top ruler in Iraq, has declared that these executions are a warning to the Soviet Union not to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs.

In Syria, despite the Syrian Government's strict secrecy, all the Syrian communist journalists have been banned from working in the press.

HUSAYN SAYS NO CRISIS IN RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD191630Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1614 GMT 19 Jul 78 LD

["Tool" item]

[Text] Baghdad, July 19, (TANJUG)--Saddam Husayn, vice-president of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, has confirmed his country's loyalty to the non-aligned movement and condemned alignment, foreign pressure, and interference. Speaking at a news conference last night, he said Iraqi domestic and foreign policies remain the same.

Saddam Husayn underlined that the role of non-alignment will grow, because the big powers are building up their destructive forces and resorting to interference in other countries' affairs. Non-aligned policy has become a historical necessity, the Iraqi vice-president noted.

Iraq seeks actively to help develop the principles of non-alignment in order to make them more operative in many areas, Saddam Husayn added.

He pointed to two main courses in non-aligned activity: resistance to imperialism and foreign interference, and closer cooperation among the non-aligned.

Speaking of Iraq's international relations, the Iraqi vice-president emphasized that they are reflected in his country's non-aligned policy, which enables Iraq to be independent from the big powers.

Commenting on reports that Baghdad-Moscow relations have deteriorated following the recent conflict between the Ba'th Party and the Communist Party of Iraq, Saddam Husayn said that there is no crisis in Iraq's friendship with the Soviet Union. Relations between the two countries, he noted, rest on the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs. The Soviet Union, he added, remains the chief supplier of the Iraqi Army, although some of its arms supplies come from France.

Iraq is against the United States because of its attitude toward the Arab nation and its support for Arab enemies, Saddam Husayn said.

HUSAYN RECEIVES LCY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

JN191630Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 July--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, today received (Milojko Drulovic), member of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] and his country's representative to Iraq's July celebrations. The two sides reviewed the growing relations between the two friendly countries and the means to strengthen them in the interests of the Iraqi and Yugoslav peoples.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES PALESTINIAN DELEGATIONS

JN171750Y Baghdad INA in English 1620 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 July--Mr Tariq 'Aziz, member of the pan-Arab leadership of the Ba'th Party, responsible for the Palestine and Armed Struggle Bureau at the leadership, received here today the Palestinian revolution delegation currently here on the occasion of the July celebrations.

Palestinian, Lebanese and Arab revolution issues were discussed. Mr Aziz said that the visit of the Palestinian delegation reflects the militant relationship that connects Palestinian revolution with 17th July Revolution.

The delegation comprises representatives from the Arab Liberation Front, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Democratic Front, the secretariat of the Palestinian rejection front and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front.

MINISTER REVIEWS ACHIEVEMENTS IN OIL, GAS SECTOR

JN191109Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 July--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, has stated that 1982 will witness the last of Iraqi natural gas being wasted by burning.

In an interview with the weekly magazine ALIF BA', 'Abd al-Karim explained that in 1982 natural gas production plants in southern and northern Iraq will start producing 4 million tons annually for export and 10 million tons of fuel oil, thus achieving a savings of approximately 1 billion dinars per year. The minister of oil added that the expansion operations at Iraqi oil refineries were carried out with Iraqi expertise which reduced implementation costs to below the figures submitted in the bids of foreign companies.

He explained that expansion operations at the Basra oil refinery, which are nearing completion, have been implemented with Iraqi expertise at a cost of only 45 million dinars while the German (Mannesmann) Company submitted a bid in 1975 which was twice the above figure. This oil refinery, which was opened during the present July revolution celebrations, was established by Iraqi technical cadres at a cost of 38 million dinars while a Japanese firm had bid 54 million dinars.

The capacity of this oil refinery is 140 tons of paints [duhun] annually.

IRAQ, YUGOSLAVIA DISCUSS OIL RELATIONS

JN171820Y Baghdad INA in English 1800 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 July--Mr Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of oil, received here last night the Yugoslav member of the federal government responsible for economic relations with developing and nonalined countries, Mr Vuko Dragasevic. Oil relations were discussed between the two countries. The two sides tackled the issue of Yugoslav participation in the implementation of some development and economic projects in Iraq.

IRAQI TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

JN191622Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1612 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Moscow, 19 July--An Iraqi trade delegation headed by Tariq Sabri 'Abd al-Latif, director general of the Iraqi Exhibitions Authority, arrived here today on a visit of several days to the Soviet capital. The delegation will attend the opening ceremony of the first exhibition of Iraqi products tomorrow, Thursday. It will also hold contacts with officials with regard to trade relations between the two countries.

SUDANESE, IRAQI MINISTERS DISCUSS OIL, INDUSTRY

JN161556Y Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 July--Sudanese-Iraqi talks on oil and industry were commenced here today.

Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and minister of oil, received Sudanese Industry Minister Bashir 'Abbadi. Both ministers discussed oil relations, Iraqi participation in Sudanese development plans, and training Sudanese cadre at Iraqi institutions.

Industrial talks were also discussed with Muhammad 'Ayish, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and minister of industry and minerals.

Both sides agreed that the Iraqi side will send some experts [in the] fields of food industries, engineering and textiles for establishing cooperation in this regard.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES MRS BANDARANAIKE

JN191008Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0947 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul--Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, received at noon today Mrs Sirlimavo W.R.D. Bandaranaike, president of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and former Sri Lankan prime minister. Mrs Bandaranaike had participated in Iraq's celebrations of the July anniversaries.

During the meeting, which was attended by 'Abd al-Husayn Jamal, under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the two parties reviewed relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party in addition to the current Arab and international situation.

IRAQI-INDIAN COOPERATION COMMITTEE HOLDS TALKS

JN161202Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 July--Ghanim 'Abd al-Jalil, member of the Revolution Command Council and head of the Iraqi side on the Iraqi-Indian committee for technical cooperation, received here today Bhanu Partap Singh, Indian minister of agriculture and irrigation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed cooperation between the two countries in the areas of agriculture, agrarian reform and irrigation, and the means to strengthen these relations in the interests and service of the peoples of the two countries.

NEW PROPOSAL ON MIDEAST QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED

JN191153Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 July--Iraq today informed Arab countries about a proposal on the Palestinian issue and the Middle East situation it will present to the nonalined foreign ministers meetings to begin in Belgrade on 25 July.

This was done when the Foreign Affairs Ministry under secretary received here today the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions accredited to Iraq. The under secretary handed the Arab diplomats memorandums on this subject and stressed Iraq's desire to see the Arab countries participating in the conference adopt a unified stand.

FOREIGN DELEGATIONS DEPART FOLLOWING CELEBRATIONS

JN200607 [Editorial report JN] Baghdad INA in Arabic from 0730 GMT to 2100 GMT on 19 July carries short, factual items reporting the departure from Baghdad of the following delegations after their participation in the Iraqi July revolution celebrations:

1. The Libyan delegation headed by Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of municipalities;

2. The Danish Communist Party delegation headed by (Yib Norlind), official in charge of foreign relations in the party;

3. The Vietnamese delegation headed by Vice Premier Huynh Tan Phat;

4. The GDR delegation headed by Horst Sindermann, member of the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany;

5. The Czechoslovak delegation headed by Josef Korcak, member of the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee and deputy premier;

6. The delegation of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement led be Dr Usama Fakhuri, member of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement;

7. The delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine headed by Comrade Salah Salah, member of the front's Political Bureau;

8. The Algerian delegation headed by Muhammad al-Mayli, chairman of the Culture Committee of the central organ of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party;

9. The Bahraini delegation headed by Dr Husayn al-Baharanah, minister of state for legal affairs;

10. The Qatari delegation led by Ahmad 'Ali Ma'rafiyah, ambassador in the Qatari Foreign Ministry;

11. The Moroccan delegation led by Dr Ahmed Ramzi, minister of religious endowments and Islamic affairs;

12. The delegation of the British Revolutionary Party led by (Mr Healy), founder of the party;

13. The delegation of the African Congress Party Azania led by (Potelku Libalu), chairman of the party;

14. The delegation of the Central African Empire led by Rigobert Yombo, minister of energy, mines and geology;

15. The Lesotho delegation led by K. Chakela, secretary general of the Basotho Congress Party;

16. The Sri Lanka delegation led by (Mimel Karlzim), member of the National State Assembly;

17. The Turkish delegation led by Culture Minister Ahmet Tamer Kislali;

18. The League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] delegation led by Milojko Drulovic, member of the LCY Presidium.

UN ENVOY ROBERTO GUYER ARRIVES IN AMMAN FOR TALKS

JN191152Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Mr Roberto Guyer, assistant to the secretary general of the United Nations, arrived in Amman this morning. On his arrival, Guyer said that during his visit to Jordan he will hold talks with Mudar Badran, prime minister and foreign minister, and with Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, concerning the current Middle East situation in general, and will convey to them the UN secretary general's viewpoint on this situation.

Mr Guyer was met at Amman airport by the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, the director of the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry and General Siilasvuo, chief UN observer in the Middle East.

Meets With Badran

JN191510Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Mudar Badran, prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office today Mr Roberto Guyer, assistant to the secretary general of the United Nations, and Gen Enzio Siilasvuo, chief coordinator of the UN forces in the Middle East, and the delegation accompanying them.

Mr Guyer conveyed Kurt Waldheim's greetings to His Majesty King Husayn and the prime minister. He expressed his appreciation for the efforts being exerted by the Jordanian leadership to reach a just and lasting settlement in the Middle East.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the Jordanian position on developments in the Middle East. The prime minister affirmed Jordan's determination to support the efforts of the United Nations and the secretary general to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on UN resolutions.

Mr Badran said that successive Israeli governments have been placing obstacles and difficulties in the way of achieving a settlement to the conflict in the area. He added that Israel's designs, particularly in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, have exposed its true intentions to expand and establish settlements.

Mr Guyer briefed the prime minister on the results of the talks held in Damascus between UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim and President Hafiz al-Asad and the talks held in Salzburg with President Anwar as-Sadat. Mr Guyer explained the UN secretary general's position and ideas on recent developments in the area, the results of the current contacts between Egypt and Israel and the steps which might be taken to continue international momentum to safeguard the peace march.

General Siilasvuo then reviewed the tasks of the UN forces in Lebanon, expressing his hope that calm and security would prevail in southern Lebanon.

Finally, the subject of the transfer of UNRWA headquarters from Beirut to Vienna was discussed. The prime minister expressed the stand of the Jordanian Government and of the states hosting refugees on the need to keep UNRWA headquarters in the area where there are refugees.

The meeting was attended by Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Dr Hazim Nusaybah, Jordan's permanent delegate to the United Nations.

FRG PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN182034Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] An FRG parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman this evening on an official visit of several days. During the visit the delegation will meet with several senior officials. The delegation will discuss several international issues, primarily the Middle East problem. The delegation's itinerary includes visits to several historic and tourist sites in the kingdom.

Meets With Ibrahim

JN191445Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 19 July--Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a parliamentary delegation representing the FRG's Christian Social Union have reviewed Middle East issues and the efforts being exerted to establish peace in the area. They also reviewed the refugee issue and the efforts being exerted by the Jordanian Government in this regard. The discussion also dealt with the transfer of UNRWA headquarters to Amman. The meeting was attended by Dr Hazim Nusaybah, Jordanian permanent delegate to the United Nations.

Meets With Senate President

JN191446Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1425 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 19 July--Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni and the delegation of the FRG's Christian Social Union, which is currently visiting Jordan, have discussed the stages and development of the parliamentary experiment in Jordan, the Middle East situation and matters pertaining to the Palestinian problem.

AMBASSADOR INFORMED OF EGYPTIAN POSITION ON LONDON TALKS

JN180732Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jul 78 p 11 JN

[Text] Cairo--Special AR-RA'Y dispatch--Informed Egyptian sources have said that important talks took place at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry yesterday between Jordan and Egypt. Informed sources in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said that Egyptian officials informed Dhuqan al-Hindawi, Jordanian ambassador in Cairo, of the official Egyptian position on the talks which will take place in London today between the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER RESIGNS TO TAKE UP UN POST

JN180737Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jul 78 pp 1,11 JN

[Excerpt] Amman--Agriculture Minister Salah Jum'ah has tendered his resignation effective 1 August 1978. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization has offered Jum'ah the post of assistant director general-Near East regional representative, which became vacant on 1 July 1978.

AR-RA'Y CONSIDERS EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS 'WASTE OF TIME'

JN200745Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 20 Jul 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Danger Signs," the newspaper AR-RA'Y says that after the failure of the tripartite talks in Leeds which Moshe Dayan described as a waste of time, any talk about another meeting or other rounds of talks should also be considered a waste of time because, more than ever, Israel does not wish to establish peace at this particular time.

The failure of the Leeds talks imposes, on the Egyptian party in particular, the duty of reassessing the calculations of the initiative and putting a decisive and final end to the continuous and repeated falls into Zionist traps especially since the initiative has led to a deterioration of Arab relations and a breaking up of Arab solidarity.

The time is ripe for Arabs to take stock of their position, shoulder their responsibilities with courage, sincerity and honor and adhere to the pan-Arab cause with a readiness for sacrifice because sticking the divided head of the Arab nation into the Zionist quicksand will only lead to further catastrophies and setbacks.

His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the Syrian capital for talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has the primary objective of discussing the Arab cause. This is the first step on the road toward further efforts which should be made on the pan-Arab level to restore Arab solidarity without which no peace in the Middle East can be established.

The failure of the Leeds talks, due to Israel's intransigence and due to the Zionist leadership's scorn of Arab existence and international will, must become the basic and most important incentive to build inherent Arab strength. Such strength will enable Arabs to enter into a military or political dialog with Israel.

The signs of the Zionist danger to Arab existence are countless. Before it is too late, the Arabs must realize that conferences, talks and meetings within the current political moves to establish peace are a waste of time in words and deeds. Perhaps the only time Dayan has been sincere is when he described the Leeds talks as a waste of time.

PALESTINIAN GROUP ATTEMPTING CYPRUS RESCUE MISSION

NC201230Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 20 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Information received by Voice of Lebanon indicates that a Palestinian group has gone by sea to Cyprus in an attempt to storm the prison in which the killers of the Egyptian journalist, As-Siba'i; are being held with a view to rescuing them from the death sentence. It is worth noting that the killers of As-Siba'i are Palestinians and belong to Fatah.

CABINET CONVENES AS SECURITY SITUATION IMPROVES

NC191235Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 July 78 NC

[Text] The security situation continues to improve in the capital and its suburbs. The implementation of security measures adopted in coordination with the commands of the Arab Deterrent Forces and the Internal Security Forces has resulted in increased relaxation. This was particularly noticeable after forces of the army and the Internal Security Forces took up positions in Beirut Port yesterday. Preparations have been made to implement additional measures.

The relaxation in the security field is reflected in a similar relaxation on the political level. Political and official efforts have continued to accompany the measures aimed at putting the contents of the President's message into practice on the various levels. Political circles continue to follow with great interest the current bilateral contacts and consultations between Beirut and Damascus. These contacts are aimed at paving the way for the discussions which Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will hold with the Lebanese officials in Beirut to coordinate cooperation in order to remove the causes of the recent political crisis in Lebanon.

In this context, President Sarkis held a working meeting at 0900 this morning with the prime minister, Dr Salim al-Huss, and the minister of foreign affairs and defense, Fu'ad Butrus. During the meeting, the general situation and the progress of the measures taken by the authorities were discussed.

At 1110 President Sarkis chaired the cabinet's weekly session attended by the prime minister and the other ministers.

After the meeting, which ended at 1315, the prime minister said: The discussions at the cabinet meeting and at the prior working meeting centered on general political subjects and the security situation in the country. Naturally, the security arrangements aimed at consolidating the security situation in the country and the establishment of calm and security were also discussed. The prime minister added that discussions also dealt with some aspects of rebuilding the Lebanese Army. We also discussed the main features to be included in the bill which the government could adopt in this respect.

Asked whether any practical and definite decision had been reached on army conscription, the prime minister replied: The army command is carrying out the required studies for putting the law on army service into practice. We have not yet received the results of these studies.

Asked whether the picture has become clearer as far as the stationing of the army in Beirut and its entry into the south and the date by which these two things will be carried out is concerned, the prime minister replied: All of these arrangements are still being studied.

The interior minister, Dr Salah Salman, was asked about reports by some foreign radios saying that the entry of the army into the port is part of the security plan. He said: This is not true. What has taken place is something limited in order to insure the opening of the port and to enable everybody to get to it. The Internal Security Forces do not have enough men to maintain security, therefore the army has assumed this task.

BUTRUS ON SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

NC191630Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jul 78 NC

[Text] After leaving the Presidential Palace this afternoon, the minister of foreign affairs and national defense, Fu'ad Butrus, answered a question on his contacts with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. He said: Minister Khaddam is currently in Yemen and will return tomorrow morning or this evening. We will hold new contacts with him. I cannot say whether his visit to Beirut will take place tomorrow since no contacts have yet been held between us.

Concerning the security plan, Minister Butrus said: What security plan are they talking about? I have no knowledge of a security plan. The term "security plan" is being continuously used--and much too often. Let us use terms which are more correct than "security plan" because, as a matter of fact, there is nothing called the "security plan" at present.

Asked about the truth of reports concerning the recall of officers in order to regroup the army in several places as a prelude to assigning new security tasks to it, Minister Butrus replied: I think this is not true. The fact that the army is making some studies and preparations is a natural thing under any circumstances. I know of nothing which might serve as a launching pad for new missions at present.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS DIFFERENCES WITHIN CABINET

NC192013Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 19 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] The cabinet has failed to reconcile the divergent viewpoints between the government [al-hukumati] and the president [al-hukm] on the security plan.

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss voiced four objections to the security plan. He asked that the views of Syria, the resistance and the leftist movement be taken into account.

Well-informed sources have said that the postponement of Syrian Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's visit to Beirut coincides with the government's disapproval of the security plan.

Minister Denies Differences

NC192130Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] Minister of Health and Water Resources and Electricity Dr Ibrahim Shu-aytu has stated that the cabinet today discussed general matters without adhering to an agenda.

Answering a question, Minister Shu'aytu affirmed that harmony prevailed in the cabinet meeting and that reports being broadcast by radio stations on differences among the ministers is absolutely untrue.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO POSTPONE VISIT

NC201154Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 20 Jul 78 NC

[Text] A government source today told the Voice of Lebanon correspondent that although agreement was not reached on certain matters at the cabinet meeting, there was not, however, any disagreement among the ministers. The government source said that the disagreement was over some matters and that a decision on these matters was postponed until next week. The source said that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will delay his visit to Beirut until next week.

SPEAKER AL-AS'AD SAYS ARMY'S ENTRY INTO SOUTH IMMINENT

NC191828Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] Speaker Kamil al-As'ad reviewed the general situation in the country, particularly the security situation and some parliamentary issues, with a number of deputies today.

Speaker al-As'ad told the journalists that he hopes security will prevail. Asked about his meeting with President Sarkis last night, at which the subject of the collection of arms was discussed, Speaker al-As'ad said: we discussed the question of collecting the arms with his excellency the president. It is clear that the president's message did not disregard the question of collecting the arms at present. What the message means is that the collection of arms should include all parties. This is logical and is not subject to arguments. This means that the misunderstanding which occurred has not been removed and that the recommendation adopted by the joint special committees, whose contents we discussed with President Sarkis and Al-Asad, is still eligible for a follow up and implementation, with the help of God.

Asked whether any committees, particularly the National Defense Committee, have been asked to discuss the subject of the army, Al-As'ad replied: I wish to announce that I am very optimistic concerning the army's entry into the south. This is a foregone conclusion. We expect its implementation to take place in a matter of days. Al-As'ad added: The question of the army in general remains to be resolved. It requires a deep study by the specialized committees. We will call up these committees in the near future after security has been consolidated.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT RECONSIDERS STAND ON STATE'S POLICY

JN192005Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 19 July--The Central Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement said that the movement will reconsider its stand toward the state's policy as described in Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis' address on Saturday evening.

In a statement issued today after a meeting during which the Central Council discussed President Sarkis' address, the council said that sending the army to certain areas yesterday represents the government's insistance on using this sectarian factional army despite opposition from a vast majority of the Lebanese people. This act risks the security and political situation in the country.

INA has learned that the Central Council will hold a press conference on the day after tomorrow, Friday, to declare the Nationalist Movement's views on the state's overall policy in light of President Sarkis' address.

Attacks Army Commander

JN2006355Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0756 GMT 20 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 July--The newspaper AL-WATAN organ of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, has waged a strong attack against the present commander of the Lebanese Army and accused him of having participated and still participating in the war on the side of the rightist militias. The paper says that the photograph published in the Phalangist paper AL-'AMAL on 7 July 1976 was taken in the joint operations room in the northern coastal town of Al-Batrun when the rightist militias overran the region of Al-Kurah.

AL-WATAN cited a recent book by Camille Sham'un, the leader of the National [Liberal] Party, entitled "The Lebanese Crisis" as saying that Victor Khuri led the battle in the north. AL-WATAN asked: How can the state enlist the help of this army which is commanded by one of the Phalangists and National Liberals? The paper added: this army is rejected by the majority of the Lebanese factions. It will continue to be under suspicion until a final decision is made on its powers, command, structure and role.

On the other hand, AL-WATAN disclosed that the Phalangist and National Liberal Parties had prepared for a military coup to be carried out by some elements of this army. The paper said that the coup was to have taken place at the beginning of July. The plan was that the two parties were to take over power in the country in the name of a legitimate army. This careful planning was preceded by the arrival of Zionist arms shipments, which were later exposed by Western news media. AL-WATAN said that reports about the coup attempt were leaked and this led to its postponement. The paper cited a report published in a British paper on 16 July to the effect that Lebanese Government sources feared that a coup might be carried out by the rightist forces which are fed up with President Sarkis' inaction.

PREMIER ON ATTEMPT TO BOMB AN-NAHAR PREMISES

NC191833Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 July 78 NC

[Text] The prime minister and minister of the information, Dr Salim al-Huss, accompanied by 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Shaykha, the director general of ceremonies and public relations in the prime minister's office, visited the premises of AN-NAHAR newspaper this afternoon. They met Mr Ghassan Tuwayni and the newspaper staff. After that, Prime Minister al-Huss denounced the attack made against AN-NAHAR at 0845 this morning in which two explosive charges were thrown at the newspaper premises.

VOICE OF LEBANON: RIGHTIST FORCES REFRAIN FROM SNIPING

NC190800Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0715 GMT 19 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Lebanese circles in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah area have stressed that not a single sniper bullet was fired by the Lebanese forces all day yesterday. However, alien gunmen opened sniper fire in all directions. The clarification has been made in response to a statement released by the Arab Deterrent Forces command through the official information media in which it said that a Sudanese soldier was killed yesterday by sniper fire.

BEIRUT RADIO SAYS SECURITY SITUATION IMPROVING

NC2006311 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] The security situation in the capital continues to improve daily. There is noticeable activity in the areas which were the scenes of the recent tension. Officials of public departments and private establishments are returning to their offices to resume work following the response made to the security measures by all groups.

UNIFIL SPOKESMAN ON SITUATION IN SOUTH

NC1919041 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Jul 78 NC

[Text] The situation in general remains unchanged in the UNIFIL's area of operation in southern Lebanon. Contacts are also still continuing in order to insure complete freedom of movement in all areas of operation. This was stated today by the UNIFIL spokesman in Lebanon in a statement based on information received from the UNIFIL headquarters in An-Naquara.

The statement says that the Nepalese contingent has transferred its headquarters to Blida which is located south of the line evacuated during the final stage of the Israeli withdrawal. In the south, a mine clearing operation has started.

The statement adds: In the northern and central regions, some infiltration attempts were made during the night by armed elements. Generally, however, these attempts were prevented.

In the meantime, some armed elements, which were detained by the UNIFIL forces for a period of several weeks, have left the area of operations. The statement adds that the main distinguishing characteristics of the situation in the area is the continuous return of normalcy with the UNIFIL forces' help. Recently, about 200 new families, coming from the north, returned to the UNIFIL's operations area.

The statement concludes that while some difficulties arose, the most important of which was the brief detention of some UNIFIL soldiers by armed elements, it is worthwhile to note that this problem was resolved within 24 hours and that these forces were not forced to use their weapons.

STATE OF ALERT DECLARED BY UNIFIL IN SOME BORDER AREAS

NC2012021 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 20 Jul 78 NC

[Text] This morning the UNIFIL command declared a state of alert in a number of border areas in the wake of intensive infiltrations over the past 48 hours.

The UNIFIL command held a meeting at its headquarters in An-Naqurah at noon today. It studied the security situation in the wake of the armed concentrations in the area.

ROMANIAN SHIP REPORTEDLY UNLOADS ARMS FOR FATAH

NC1911551 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 19 Jul 78 NC

[Text] It has been reported that a Romanian ship unloaded arms and ammunition for Fatah at Tyre last night.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES YASIR 'ARAFAT, OTHERS

JN191645Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1600 today PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed the results of the discussions of the PLO Central Council held in Damascus. They also reviewed recent developments in the situation in the Arab area.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1500 today Qatari Economy Minister Shaykh Nasir Al Thani. Syrian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi attended the meeting. They discussed the strengthening of the fraternal relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and the state of Qatar. They also discussed the situation in the Arab area.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1330 today His Beautitude Patriarch Maximos Hakim, patriarch of Antioch and the rest of the East for the Greek Catholics, and His Beatitude Bishop Francoise Abu Muhr, deputy patriarch and the bishop of Damascus. He also received His Beatitude Bishop Idilbi, the bishop of Aleppo.

His beatitude the patriarch expressed his appreciation for His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and his nationalist and patriotic stands and wise policy. He also expressed his appreciation for the sincere efforts which Syria is making under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the sacrifices Syria is making for the sake of all Lebanese and in order to preserve the unity, sovereignty and Arabism of that fraternal country.

AL-BA'TH ON LEBANESE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS, ISRAEL

JN200611Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jul 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing under the headline "They Say That They Alone Should Speak and We Keep Silent," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Syria's attitude toward the alliance between the Phalangist and Sham'unist gangs and Israel expresses truth and reality. When we say that the Phalangist and Sham'unist gangs are the ally of Israel, what we are saying is the truth. It is not a propaganda campaign as they claim. When we insist on using the expressions "gangs" and "remnants" when referring to them, it is because these expressions apply exactly to this evil alliance, whose practices surpass those of criminal and murderous gangs.

Therefore, we ask: "Why should they alone speak and Syria keep silent? These people must understand that Syrian stands have always been clear, both in words and deeds. This is what distinguishes Syria under Al-Asad. We do not like maneuverings and deceptions. We refuse to cooperate with any mentality which is maneuvering and deceiving. We are tolerant but not neglectful. When national duty calls for decisive action we do not for a single moment hesitate to do that. This is what we have done with As-Sadat and what we can do with any agent who tries to prejudice our stands, which reflect the aspirations of our nation.

BRIEFS

ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received the credentials today of 'Abd al-Qadir ibn Qasim, Algerian Ambassador to Syria. [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Jun 78 JN]

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE MEETS AFRICAN PRESIDENTS, WALDHEIM IN KHARTOUM

LD192130Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 19 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] In Khartoum today, President Boumediene met Niger's President Seyni Kountche, Botswana's President Sir Seretse Khama, Angolan President Agostinho Neto, Burundi's President Bagaza, Mali's President Moussa Traore, and Madagascar's chief of state, Didier Ratsiraka.

The Algerian president also gave interviews to Mr 'Ali at-Turayki, Libyan foreign minister; Mr Okongo, member of the Congolese Labor Party's Political Bureau, and to Mr Kurt Waldheim, secretary general of the United Nations.

It is indicated in Khartoum that apart from these audiences, the head of state has had not talks with any other personalities, contrary to reports put about by certain agencies.

MOROCCAN FRONT URGES ACTION AGAINST HASSAN REGIME

LD191101Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 12 Jul 78 pp 1, 5 LD

[Unattributed report: "Union of Moroccan Revolutionary Forces Condemns King's Policy and Calls for Revolutionary Action"]

[Text] The Union of Moroccan Revolutionary Forces [UFRM] has secretly distributed two communiques in Morocco in which it denounces the king's domestic and foreign policies and appeals to the Moroccan people to resort to revolutionary action.

The UFRM emphasizes the repression to which Moroccan militants are being subjected and points out that "freedom is nonexistent and the regime's police force monitors the citizens' every move."

Moreover, the UFRM points out that "Hassan II's blind obstinacy in clinging to power despite 15 years of catastrophic rule has plunged our country into a suicidal enterprise for which he alone bears responsibility if the people he has misled and is still misleading withdraw their solidarity for his reactionary policy."

The UFRM, a clandestine opposition party, recently distributed a document in Morocco's main cities in which it states: "We have been faced with the West Sahara problem for several years now and there is still no prospect of a solution to end this war which the king is using to distract the Moroccan people's attention from their repression and poverty."

The document goes on to say: "Hassan II has taken advantage of this affair and has succeeded in silencing most of our country's political leaders with the lure of democracy which the Moroccan people have never stopped demanding."

After pointing out that "a parliament now exists but there is no point discussing the choice of its members and the election process," the document explains: "There is now unanimous condemnation for the crimes of the king's clique, but nobody will admit that armed struggle is the only way in which our people can win freedom and control their future.

"Both inside and outside the country," the UFRM goes on, "certain leaders of political parties say they cannot envisage resuming the struggle against Hassan II until the West Sahara problem is solved.

"Where is the 'freedom' promised by the Royal Palace--a promise backed by the party leaders to trick the people more effectively. These leaders are silent now. Are they afraid of 'royalist democracy'? Or are they afraid of meeting the same fate as Mehdi Ben Barka and Omar Bendjelloun?"

The UFRM document states that: "The UFRM is now ready to lead an armed uprising in Morocco and asks sincere militants to join its ranks," adding:

"Let all those who are helping the Royal Palace to establish its heinous crimes as a system of government know that both inside and outside Morocco the UFRM militants are ready to wage a merciless struggle against Hassan II's regime.

"The UFRM calls on party leaders to assume their responsibilities, for tomorrow will be too late," the UFRM document states.

The UFRM has published a second document condemning the monarchist government's attitude on both the domestic and external levels and appeals to the Moroccan people to resort to revolutionary action.

"So far the Moroccan national movement has only used peaceful methods of struggling against the monarchy. The events which the Maghreb Arab peoples have lived through inspired us to be patient." However, the UFRM stresses, "The Moroccan national movement is ready to take the offensive and sweep away once and for all the imperialist current which has become firmly established in our country.

"Our people have been able to see for themselves that the palace's promises are utopian.

"An extremely bitter struggle is now going on between progressive and reactionary forces.

"Our country has been chosen as a leading base for imperialism and Zionism," the UFRM document explains.

The UFRM emphasizes the repression to which Moroccan militants are being subjected and points our that "freedom is nonexistent and the regime's police force monitors the citizens' every move.

"These facts prove that many party leaders are imposters, fleeing their responsibilities out of cowardice, and that they have tried to deceive the Moroccan people with their pseudorevolutionary slogans," the document continues, and then adds that "These leaders have betrayed the path laid down by the heroes of national independence (Mehdi Ben Barka and many others).

"They have betrayed a generation which has experienced the worst repression in the history of the Arab Maghreb by allowing Hassan II to establish his heinous crimes as a system of government."

Moreover, the UFRM calls on Moroccan men and women to take revolutionary action.

In this respect the UFRM stresses that "Hassan II's blind obstinacy in clinging to power despite 15 years of catastrophic rule has plunged our country into a suicidal enterprise for which he alone bears responsibility if the people he has misled and is still misleading withdraw their solidarity for his reactionary policy."

The document adds: "All Moroccan men and women who are loyal to their country and their people must not resign themselves to the crimes which are committed against them every day but must fight to gain control of the country and its future.

"The party leaders must assume their responsibilities and choose between commitment to the struggle for freedom or their present state of subservience, although there can be no justification for their inertia, for nobody can invoke nationalism with regard to the West Sahara problem and remain silent to the fact that Spanish colonialists are occupying part of the national territory," the communique states.

"The wind of revolution will eventually sweep away all opponents and so, before it is too late, all members of the revolutionary movement must follow the path laid down by our martyrs--all those patriots which the king killed in his cowardice but who will live in our memories for ever and in the memory of future generations," the UFRM document ends.

LIBYA

IRANIAN TROOPS POSITIONED ON PDRY-OMAN BORDER

LD191704Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The shah of Iran has dispatched two units of his armed forces to the Sultanate of Oman. One of those two units has taken up positions close to South Yemen's border with Oman. Observers have pointed out that, by taking up such positions, the Iranian forces mean to prepare for direct military intervention by exploiting the recent events in Yemen.

MAURITANIA

SALECK: MOROCCAN TROOPS IN MAURITANIA AT LATTER'S WISH

LD192110Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jul 78 LD

[Text] In an interview granted to the Spanish paper EL PAIS, Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of the Mauritanian Government, said that the 9,000 Moroccan soldiers now stationed in Mauritania are there in response to the wish and at the request of Mauritanians.

He observed that His Majesty King Hassan II had emphasized more than once that the Moroccan forces there were at the disposal of Mauritania and that if it felt these forces were no longer necessary, the Moroccan king would be ready to withdraw them, pointing out that it cost Morocco a lot of money to keep them there.

Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck was asked whether the wish expressed by the Military Committee for National Recovery to restore peace meant reviewing the tripartite Madrid agreement. He answered that the agreement was no more than a means and represented a number of commitments toward a specific situation and that the options of peoples develop with the passage of time.

Asked of Mauritania will hold negotiations with the rulers of Algeria or the mercenaries of the POLISARIO Front, he explained that Mauritania would not take any step without the cooperation of Morocco. He went on: Obviously, if there is to be peace, everyone should benefit from it. To restore peace to that part of the Arab Maghreb there must be full accord. This accord exists between Morocco and Mauritania, but it must embrace all the countries of the region.

NEW MILITARY RULER COMMENTS ON SAHARAN WAR

PA191916Y Paris AFP in English 1900 GMT 19 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, July 19 (AFP)--Mauritania's new military ruler Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, said here today that friends of Mauritania (?have) expressed "understanding" for the Mauritanian people's desire for peace.

In a meeting with Mauritanian newsmen he stressed that the nation must continue the war against the Algerian-backed Western Sahara independence only if "it is unjustified and must be carried out with truly recognized objectives."

Mauritania and Morocco have been battling POLISARIO guerrillas who contest the partitioning of the former Spanish Sahara in 1976 by Rabat and Nouakchott.

Lt Col Saleck said that the Mauritanian people had "opted for friendship among all peoples and notably among peoples of the Maghreb."

Meanwhile, from a Saharan refugee camp in southern Algeria, the POLISARIO Front warned the new Mauritanian [word indistinct] that it might resume its operations against Mauritania, interrupted after the Front ordered its forces to observe a ceasefire on July 12, if Nouakchott "does not revise the criminal policy of (deposed Mauritanian President Moktar) Ould Daddah."

"Mauritania has not yet been able to take control of its affairs and is not ever in a position to ensure sovereignty on its territory where the Moroccan military presence still exists," Sid Ahmed Batel, [name as received] a senior POLISARIO official, said.

In Paris, Mauritania's new equipment minister, Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi, today expressed satisfaction with his talks with French officials, including Cooperation Minister Robert Galley and Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud.

Holds Press Conference

LD192338Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Lt Col Moustafa Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of the government, held a press conference this morning in which he candidly and clearly answered many questions submitted by the national press.

As regards mass support for the Military Committee for National Recovery [MCNR] after it had recovered power in the country, the chairman of the MCNR confirmed that this support has been underscored by the peoples' confidence in their armed forces.

Lt Col Moustafa Ould Mohamed Saleck pointed out that the multiparty system is a means of exercising freedom whereby every citizen expresses his choice and his objectives. He said that those objectives should be free from any [word indistinct] that can hinder the rectification that we want to carry out.

He went on to say: The only call we address to our people is unity, the call of freedom, the freedom of expression, the freedom of opinion and the freedom of participating in directing the country. If the multiparty system is understood this way, then it is useful, but when the multiparty system is based on personal rivalries, then it becomes useless and there is no need at all for it.

Answering a question on the nature of the council or the consultative committee planned for later, the MCNR chairman explained that this committee should be a committee of cadre, a committee which will think about the various guiding principles which are needed. He said that it will not reach the level of a parliament, or parliamentary representation, because it is a committee and as such it is to think about economic, financial and political guidance in addition to guiding foreign policy.

He added that the committee will include cadre of this nation who know all its affairs and its facts. He said that he received messages from leaders of fraternal countries expressing their support for the new regimes and they also, Lt Col Saleck said, [words indistinct] your inclination toward any certain state.

He went on to express his and other MCNR members' happiness at all the messages received and all the envoys who were sent to express confidence that the Mauritanian people had chosen a sound path, a commendable path that shows that if Mauritania wants peace this does not mean that it is unable to fight until the last person, as our grandfathers have done. No doubt that we are among the most experienced peoples in the profession of war. The MCNR also can wage war in the cities, the countryside, the desert and so forth. However, the MCNR prefers to fight a war in which it knows its objectives and the results expected from it and being aware of them. And despite its skill in the profession of war, the Mauritanian people prefer peace and fraternity among all peoples, especially the peoples of the Arab Maghreb.

Receives Soviet Ambassador

LD182102Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of government, received and gave an audience to Soviet Ambassador Mr Vladimir Startsev this afternoon. The meeting lasted nearly 1 hour. Afterwards the ambassador stated that he had discussed with Colonel Saleck all aspects of cooperation between Mauritania and the Soviet Union. He added that there were possibilities for developing these relations in the economic, political and cultural fields and that he would work to make this a tangible reality.

TUNISIA

COURT INDICTS 101 PEOPLE FOR JANUARY'S CIVIL DISORDERS

LD192036Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The criminal chamber of the Appeal Court in Sousse began the trial today of the trade unionists accused of participating in the incidents last 25 January. There were 101 persons who appeared before the court, 59 of whom were under temporary release and 42 under detention. They included the accused Habib Achour, former secretary general of the regional labor union in Sousse.

The president of the court read the accused the indictment. This demands the trial of 39 persons accused of inciting the inhabitants to riot, calling for gatherings in armed groups on public highways, blowing up a weapons and ammunition depot, collecting weapons and supplying them to others and disturbing the public peace, in accordance with the terms of Chapter 72, 74, 79 and 118 of the Criminal Law, Chapters 42 and 43 of the Press Law, and Section Two of Chapter 22 of the law of 12 June 1969.

The indictment also calls for the trial of the remaining 62, who are accused of joining a gathering which was liable to disturb the public peace, and which aimed to commit the crime of joining another group to instigate inhabitants to attack one another, and of carrying unlicensed weapons, in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 76, 79, 77, 118 and 119 of the Criminal Law, Chapters 42 and 43 of the Press Law, Law [word indistinct] 33 dated 12 June 1969 and Law Number 4 dated 20 January 1969.

When the president of the court finished reading the indictment, a number of lawyers requested an adjournment to allow them further consideration of the case file and the temporary release of the detainees. The court responded to the defense's plea for a postponement to Monday 24 July and rejected the request for the detainees temporary release.

PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA INTERVIEWED BY PARIS LE MATIN

LD191009Y Paris LE MATIN in French 15-16 Jul 78 P 4 LD

[Francois-Henri de Virieu interview with Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira: "Tunisia Worried by Spain Joining Common Market"--date and place of interview not specified]

[Excerpts] LE MATIN: Mr Prime Minister, what is the situation in Tunisia 6 months after the social insurrection of January 1978? What is the real state of the economy?

Hedi Nouira: You spoke of a social insurrection. Insurrection, yes. Social, no. There was no strictly social side to what happened 26 January. It has been proved that it was definitely premeditated and well prepared. The case brought before the court will enable people to realize this.

[Question] To digress: It is being said that Habib Achour's trial will take place next month. Is this true?

[Answer] Probably. The executive has nothing to do with fixing the date for the hearing. However, I believe that the questioning is nearly at an end. It will then be up to the office of the director of public prosecutions to give its verdict. The case will then be referred to the court immediately. We are anxious to get this trial over so that everyone will know the facts.

[Question] Do you feel that French business leaders are really taking advantage of the benefits you offer them in the 1972 law? In which sectors could industrial cooperation be extended?

[Answer] It could be extended for example in the field of subcontracting. At one time France used to subcontract the industrial work it did not want to do at home. Is subcontracting not one of the ways to bring about a new world economic order by insuring a certain international-scale distribution of production, instead of adopting protectionism, as has been done in the past in the case of textiles and as will be done in the future in the case of shoes and perhaps later on with certain electronic products?

The objection could be made that this is depriving the industrial countries of a great many jobs. That is not true. For not all countries are at the same stage of development. Some sophisticated products demand advanced techniques but others can suit developing countries such as Tunisia.

[Question] Have you not been put in an awkward position by the decisions taken by European countries in recent months to protect their markets, notably their textile markets--you who gambled on the reception given to export industries?

[Answer] EC protectionism was not born yesterday. It started with the common agricultural policy; and the Common Market's enlargement to include Greece, Turkey, Spain and Portugal poses serious problems for us. We are not out-and-out protectionists; but we demand that the agreements concluded with us be respected. The Rome treaty stipulated that special terms would be proposed for countries such as Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco because of their historical connections and their traditional trade with France. If we were to be considered as third countries in the future, it would mean that the European Community had deliberately abolished the privileges stipulated by the treaty.

[Question] What would your attitude be in that case?

[Answer] We would ask for protection. I believe we could envisage organizing a conference assembling the EC countries, the North African countries and--why not?--the countries applying to join this community. Such a conference could enable us to seek and find a solution. It would testify to the solidarity existing within what could be called a Euro-Mediterranean community. Moreover it would be a socialist-inspired approach.

[Question] What is the situation in your dispute with Libya over exploiting the oil on the Mediterranean continental shelf?

[Answer] As you know, the problem of continental-shelf boundaries is to be brought before the Court of Justice in The Hague. We hope that this decision will be shared between both of our countries since both sides have accepted the court's arbitration. As far as we are concerned, we will abide by its decision. If we manage to reach an understanding with Libya in the meantime, there should be no objection to our commencing joint exploitation of the area concerned on the basis of a provisional distribution, ready to regularize the sharing system once the court has made its decision.

[Question] Do you think that there is a good chance of exploitation beginning before the affair is settled legally?

[Answer] I hope so.

[Question] What are your present relations with the Libyans? What do you think of their plan for a Maghreb minifederation?

[Answer] We have good-neighborly relations with Libya. As far as rapprochement with the Maghreb countries is concerned, we have tried experiments of cooperation with our neighbors. We were convinced that we could draw inspiration from what the Europeans had done and set up an economic community ourselves, leaving it to future generations, perhaps, to take matters further.... So far these experiments have not been conclusive. So to dive feet first into political unification now is not our approach....

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, Tunisia was the first Arab country to foresee the need for a direct Israeli-Arab dialog. Why is that you have not supported President as-Sadat's peace initiative more? In the past Tunisia used to call for moderation and rapprochement among nations. One has the impression that its voice has been silent for some time.

[Answer] You know, there is more to foreign politics than spectacular pronouncements. Effectiveness counts as well. If you want to continue to play a liaison role you must not alarm anyone. You must not break off relations with anyone. You must keep the possibility of not prejudicing the future. We have not changed our minds about the Near East problem. Definitely not. President Bourguiba's statement in 1965 is still valid. As-Sadat's initiative, in our opinion, was not only courageous but reckless. Did it have any chance of succeeding, of bringing some tangible result? We think not.

[Question] You must think this even more today.

[Answer] Events have proved us right. Taking into account Mr Begin's morphology, we did not think that it would work. And we said so. Nevertheless we did not sing along with his critics.

Having said this, the interested parties themselves take the view that As-Sadat's policy has not been entirely negative, especially in the western world. Beforehand the Arab was looked upon as the man with the machinegun who wanted to drive the Jews into the sea. This is no longer the case. People now know that the bellicose elements are not who they thought they were. Politically this is an achievement, as far as the atmosphere is concerned at least. From the strictly political viewpoint, the failure is not attributable to As-Sadat. Westerners should examine their consciences a little. They hoped As-Sadat would do what he did. They hoped so before he did it. It was what they talked about in whispers. Now that it has happened, what is the West's position?

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO FRONT OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON CEASE-FIRE

LD192125Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jul 78 LD

[Summary] Sayyid Ahmad al-Batal, member of the Political Bureau of the POLISARIO and member of the Saharan Revolution Command Council, held a press conference in one of the Saharan camps in which he reviewed developments concerning the Saharan problem. He said that the Front's cease-fire decision was a gesture of goodwill. He confirmed that the decision was also "aimed at eliminating all excuses for the continued occupation of Mauritania by the forces of Hassan II and the continued French intervention in the region. He confirmed that "the POLISARIO Front had not yet committed all its forces to the battle, and that it was more determined than at any other time in the past to recover its sovereignty over the whole of the territory of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic." He called on the African summit in Khartoum to shoulder its responsibilities.

BRIEFS

MOROCCAN ENVOY TO MAURITANIA--Rabat--King Hassan II has appointed Mr Ahmed Senoussi as the new ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Mauritania. Mr Ahmed Senoussi, who succeeds Mr Bisbis, was previously minister of tourism and Moroccan ambassador in Tunisia and Algiers. [Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 15 Jul 78 LD]

DAYAN SUMS UP LEEDS CASTLE CONFERENCE

TA192150Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Jul 78 TA

[Interview of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan by Mikha Limor at Leeds Castle--19 July, videotaped]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Foreign Minister, Mr Dayan, how do you sum up the 2-day conference here in Leeds Castle?

[Answer] The meetings with the Egyptians this time were the most basic clarification held with them concerning their position both with regard to their proposals, why, what they are proposing, what they see as the things which are so essential and so on, and also, with regard to our proposal, their interest in each and every clause and in the contents of the matters. It was, if I may put it like this, a seminar, to get down to the roots of matters, to understand the approach of the other side and the operative proposals, not a declaration of principles or general things, but getting down to individual details, how will peace or a settlement really appear or be made. More than any other time I regard this as a very positive result, as a preparation for the possibility of advancement from now on.

[Question] You say advancement from now on. Has there been any practical decision on the matter of advance? Any additional meeting?

[Answer] I do not know. The U.S. proposal is for an additional meeting in the near future. We responded to this positively. I do not know whether the Egyptians have announced a positive reply. I am not sure whether the Egyptian delegation was authorized, on the spot, to inform the secretary of state that they are indeed prepared for another meeting as he proposed.

[Question] Where and when will this meeting be held?

[Answer] There will be a press conference soon. If you come we will discuss it.

[Question] In conclusion, Mr Dayan, if there is indeed a further meeting, as you expect there will be, as the Americans want, where do we go from there? What does the further meeting mean? The seminar is over.

[Answer] We will report to the cabinet and I assume that they will also report to their government or their president on what we heard and also on the conclusions and, as far as possible, what those ways are--there are such--in which it is possible to advance. If the cabinet makes a decision on this matter concerning various proposals or various possibilities, then it may be, and it only may be, that in the coming meetings, and not at this meeting, there will be some sort of harvest of the fact that after what was done now--this time there was only clarification and study.

JERUSALEM SOURCES: DAYAN GAVE NO NEW IDEAS

TA192151Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Political circles in Jerusalem said today that the foreign minister did not put forward any new ideas concerning an additional interim settlement with Egypt at the Leeds conference. These circles also pointed out that the representatives of the United States at the conference did not put forward proposals regarding the formulation of a joint Israeli-Egyptian declaration of principles. From the substantive aspect, they are saying in Jerusalem, there has not been any change in the official Egyptian position which speaks of withdrawal from Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

KAMIL: 'EGYPT PREPARED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS'

TA191800Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Ibrahim Kamil told our correspondent that Egypt was prepared to continue with the negotiations because Israel had agreed to discuss the peace program Cairo submitted. Our correspondent points out that the Americans want to broaden the framework of the talks to enable Israel's defense minister and Egypt's war minister to take part. Moshe Dayan said that he supports this proposal. He will return to Israel tomorrow evening.

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS ON KNESSET POLITICAL DEBATE

TA191425Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Jul 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Before the discussion of the exemption from recruitment for girls was begun, the tense political debate ended following a motion for the agenda submitted by opposition leader Shim'on Peres. The Knesset debate centered on the political developments with reference to the London meeting and the As-Sadat-Weizman and As-Sadat-Peres talks. Correspondent Razi Barqay sums up this morning's Knesset debate: [begin recording]

There were many tense moments during the debate, along with moments of poking fun and mutually biting remarks. One should note that the two speakers were armed with their best rhetorical tools; Shim'on Peres, who has returned from a successful tour in Europe and Menahem Begin who is replying on behalf of the cabinet.

The opposition leader opens by saying that the government is impatient both in internal affairs and in external affairs. Indeed, neither President Carter nor As-Sadat would be the ones to determine who is fat and who is lean in Israel, but neither can Israel's government itself give marks to the opposition. You were euphoric after As-Sadat's Jerusalem visit, Peres says, and do not come now and argue that reality slaps you in the face.

[Peres] The one who takes the credit for bringing rain should not be surprised that he is held responsible also when there is a drought. Indeed, after a shower of rhetoric the political drought came. At the Herut center, Mr Begin claimed that he is an obstacle to surrender, not to peace. I am afraid, Mr Prime Minister, that the policy conducted by your government is more of a guarantee for isolation--Israel's isolation--than an obstacle to surrender. I am glad that the prime minister is talking with the defense minister. Perhaps you could find another opportunity?

[Barqay] While Peres is talking, Begin gestures to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman to come and sit by him. The two talk amiably, and the opposition leader is taking advantage of this to comment on the relations inside the cabinet. Mr Begin says from his seat: Don't worry, we talk to each other day and night.

Peres continues to relate his meetings with President as-Sadat and European politicians.

[Peres] My interlocutors claimed that a Soviet and communist effort is being felt, overtly and covertly, in two directions: one along the Red Sea and the other across the African Continent between the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific [as heard] Ocean.

I have been impressed by the increasing talk about the need to develop the area and to advance its inhabitants in regional, not only national, terms. I have heard very good words on the role intended for Israel in advancing the entire area because it is a country that has proved its outstanding humanitarian activity.

[Barqay] Likud members are shouting at Peres from the Likud benches: Why did you meet with As-Sadat in the first place? Minister Yig'al Horowitz, who at one time was a member of Peres' party, calls at him angrily: You plan to climb to power on As-Sadat's shoulders. The speaker explains that his Vienna meeting was coordinated with the prime minister in a talk prior to his departure for Europe.

[Peres] During the meeting, the prime minister proposed that I talk about the trip to Vienna with the foreign minister and the defense minister. I made the appointments and met with both of them. An hour before he met with me, the foreign minister publicly announced his objection, even before he had heard all about it.

It is difficult to understand why he objected. If, for example, all of Europe, without exception, continued to support the PLO or maintain that the Palestinians should have the right to self-determination, would the status of the foreign minister at the Leeds Castle conference be better? What considerations, what capriciousness! Where has anyone heard of such a thing?

You have demonstrated a lack of talent par excellence. I am not questioning the motivation, but the problem is not who will be the prime minister--the prime minister will be elected by the Knesset--the problem is, what will the political situation be? Will Israel be isolated or will it enjoy world sympathy as in the past? Will Israel be striving toward [peace] arrangements with political talent, or will Israel be sunk deep in internal conflicts inside the cabinet, inside the Likud, inside the Knesset, in games of make-believe prestige?

[Barqay] The opposition leader, therefore, asks that the Knesset hold a political debate at once. The prime minister mounts the podium to reply.

He tells Peres: You have returned from Vienna crowned with achievements. You have met with President as-Sadat for 3 and 1/2 hours. What did you talk about? Did you ask him for his opinion on the alinement's platform?

[Begin] I really wish to ask if he had asked--and I am asking this from the Knesset podium--his interlocutor for 3 and 1/2 hours, Egypt's President as-Sadat, whether he, As-Sadat, was prepared to make a territorial compromise. What is the meaning of a territorial compromise? You have part and I have a part. Here, this is a territorial compromise, excuse me. [sound of tearing paper]

[Unidentified Knesset member] This is no peace poster.

[Indistinct interjections]

[Unidentified Knesset member] I do not believe what I have just seen.

[Barqay] In a demonstrative act, at the podium the prime minister tears a piece of paper and says: Here, this is a territorial compromise. There is a commotion on the Alinement and opposition benches. You people in the cabinet are experts in tearing posters and pieces of paper, Mk Menahem Hakohen shouts.

[Indistinct interjections]

[Unidentified Knesset member] Every week there is another film scene at the Knesset.

[Unidentified Knesset member] How would this be taken down in the minutes?

[Begin] Alinement members, MK Shahal, nothing will help you! The television has already filmed this.

[Barqay] The shouting continues for several minutes, and the prime minister continues with his argument.

[Begin] ...such an opportunity in Vienna. There sits the president of the largest Arab country for 3 and 1/2 hours with the representative of the school that a territorial compromise is the remedy for all of Israel's ailments, it is the way to peace. What does he mean by the way to peace? The main road to peace? What does he mean by the main road? The one and only way? And he does not take advantage of this opportunity to say: Mr President, with all due respect, I wish to ask you: if we offer you a territorial compromise on all three fronts, would you accept such a three-fold territorial compromise? Not to take advantage of such an historic opportunity in Vienna? For over 100 minutes of private talk, and then in the presence of that proud Jew, Bruno Kreisky?

[Peres] First, I did put the question forward.

[Begin] You put if forward?

[Peres] Yes. Second, I have an answer. Third, I requested to report to you and I asked for this, even before I came to the Knesset.

[Begin] That is not important.

[Peres] I suggest to you that you do not make such provocations because it does not do any good, and I mean provocations in the bad sense of the word. I spoke with him about all the issues and at the previous meeting, too, I reported to you and only to you, and not to the Knesset, his reply on the matter of territorial compromise, on the matter of Judaea and Samaria....

[Begin] Not true. You did not tell me that As-Sadat told you about territorial compromise--As-Sadat told you--in Judaea and Samaria [Begin stammers and shouts over several attempts to interrupt] in Judaea and Samaria. [shouts from the floor]

[Unidentified Knesset member] Mr Prime Minister, please listen to the answers. He told you....

[Begin] He told you, minor changes in Judaea and Samaria. [shouting]

[Barqay] After the debate the prime minister and the leader of the opposition went to the Knesset cafeteria. There, Mr Peres reported on As-Sadat's answers, but, before that, from the podium, Mr Begin wanted to report something about the second meeting between the defense minister and the president of Egypt.

[Begin] President as-Sadat sent, via the minister of defense, certain proposals to me. I am convinced that it is not in the public's interest to publicly report what he said, that is, the proposals that were brought to me by the defense minister today. I am convinced of this. The friends, the opponents too, should be happy at this decision. Therefore we did not publicize. There have been leaks. What will I say today to these proposals? On Sunday, after the foreign minister's return, he will report fully on the Leeds conference, there will be a full debate on the proposals the president of Egypt sent me via the minister of defense, the cabinet will make a decision. I am announcing today, Madam Chairman, the cabinet wants to hold a political debate in the Knesset either this coming Monday or Tuesday.

[Barqay] The prime minister's proposal was accepted without a vote after Mr Peres gave up his demand to hold the debate today. Next week, then, there will be another political debate in the Knesset assembly, this time on the initiative of the cabinet. [end recording]

BEGIN FORBADE PERES TO MEET WITH HUSAYN

TA200655Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Jul 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin was very active yesterday both during the political debate and later, throughout the debate on the conscription of girls. Some of his activity, however, caused angry reactions from Alinement members at the end of the day because, in an open conversation with his confidants, the prime minister revealed that he had rejected an appeal from the chairman of the opposition, Shim'on Peres, to meet with King Husayn in London. Our correspondent in the Knesset, Razi Barqay, reports: [begin recording]

Near the end of the long debate in the Knesset, before midnight, the prime minister called around him, near his faction's benches in the Knesset hall, several Likud Knesset members--among them MKs Sara Doron, Hayyim Kaufman, Menahem Savidor, Roni Milo and Avraham Sharir. The prime minister told his listeners roughly the following: Shim'on Peres phoned me from London and asked my approval for him to meet with King Husayn. No, I said to him. No Husayn and no meeting. Begin added: With Ben-Gurion you would not even have seen the shores of Morocco Shmorocco. The prime minister added in English: It is this government that rules. We will not grant visas to Alinement people and we will not allow them to meet with Arab leaders.

The story reached journalists within a few minutes. When the prime minister was informed that there were ears listening to his remarks, Begin cursed in Russian and when he realized that MK Sara Doron felt embarrassed he said: Mrs Doron will certainly understand that there are things said between men. When he found out that his curse had hit the midnight news on the radio and television we heard him tell his aide, Yehi'el Qadishay, only once I do a little swearing and look how far it goes.

Back to the leak of the meeting with Husayn: When we told Peres what we had heard and asked for his confirmation of the version, he said that he was shocked by the prime minister's revelation because this was most secret information. At the same time MKs Yosi Sarid and Shulamit Alloni ran into the Knesset hall after hearing about the leak. Yosi Sarid shouted into the microphone: This is a scandal. An uproar arose in the Knesset and the prime minister, full of energy, began a series of loud exchanges with Alinement members. The affair was the talk of the night within the Knesset.

It should be noted that yesterday Begin was very alert and active from the early hours of the Knesset meeting--during the political debate and until 0100. He made many interjections, exchanged jibes with Alinement members, and when he saw himself speaking on television while his remarks were being broadcast on the Moqed program he told everyone who saw the program with him: I gave a free detective show; perhaps next time, he said jokingly, it would be worth collecting money before screening such a show.

When the prime minister was called from the Knesset members' cafeteria into the hall in order to vote, he ran all the way--causing amazement and laughter among those present. [end recording]

BEGIN DENIES REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM

TA200726Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jul 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister denies that yesterday in the Knesset he revealed things to the press which were secret. He also denies saying things along the line of "Morocco Shmorocco." The prime minister's office states that many groundless things have been publicized by the media about Begin's private conversations at yesterday's Knesset session.

The prime minister's office points out that Begin expressed his deep appreciation of Morocco and the king of Morocco during President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

ALINEMENT TO SUBMIT NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

TA200656Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Jul 78 TA

[Text] The Alinement will submit a no-confidence motion next week. The Labor Party spokesman said this morning that the no-confidence motion will be about the prime minister's frivolity on secret matters.

CABINET TO DISCUSS RETURNING AL-'ARISH

TA191744Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Jul 78 TA

[Text] On Sunday the cabinet will discuss President as-Sadat's proposal that Israel return Al-'Arish to Egyptian sovereignty as a gesture. Political correspondent Shalom Qital says that this proposal was brought from Salzburg by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and that there are several ministers who have begun to study it positively.

Our political correspondent has also learned that, in a telephone call he made this morning from Leeds Castle, the foreign minister denied that he proposed an interim settlement to Egypt. He also denied that the United States proposed discussing a declaration of principles.

PERES INTERVIEW ON NEGOTIATIONS ISSUES

TA191529Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1410 GMT 19 Jul 78 TA

[Interview with MK Shim'on Peres by Shelomo Ginossar and Yizhaq Golan--live in studio]

[Excerpt] Good afternoon listeners. The talk by the chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, with President of Egypt as-Sadat in Vienna has aroused severe criticism in the cabinet and among factions of the coalition. There have been those who defined it as backstabbing and accepting the tactics of the president of Egypt who wants to picture the prime minister of Israel as an obstacle to peace. A version has also been heard that MK Peres held negotiations with the president of Egypt parallel with the contacts the cabinet is holding officially at the Leeds conference near London. He has been accused of causing harm to the peace process through his meeting with As-Sadat.

We have invited MK Peres to the studio in order to hear from his his reaction to these accusations and his reasons for talking with the president of Egypt. Here with me in the studio is journalist Shelomo Ginozzar.

Mr Peres, was this the right timing to meet with the president of Egypt, a short time before the opening of the London talks on the initiative of the U.S. secretary of state, and at a time when the president of Egypt is taking every opportunity to state that he prefers to talk with any Israeli leader other than Prime Minister Begin and Foreign Minister Dayan?

[Peres] I am not the president of Egypt's counsel for the defense. I think that the timing was very good. I think that it will help the Leeds conference very much, it improved the atmosphere. I do not understand why, for example, the atmosphere at the Leeds conference would have been more improved if an organization as important as the Socialist International says that it supports the PLO, for example.

[Golan] Yes. Shelomo, have you something to add?

[Ginossar] Yes, by the way, all this talk has led me--in the background there was the Vienna document and the document was described in the Knesset today by you as the best and most positive document for Israel which any international body has issued since As-Sadat visited Jerusalem. Maybe you could say, Mr Peres, why it is so good?

[Peres] Because it includes all the main points which interest Israel. By the way, it is practically nothing less than what the Cabinet of Israel proposed to the Americans to propose to the Egyptians. The document itself has five main points. The first point calls for the continuation of sincere and prolonged negotiations between Israel and Egypt and the renewal of the negotiations at the point where they were stopped in January 1978. There is an excellent description there, in my view, of the desired peace, when it says (the establishment of normal and friendly relations between Middle Eastern states in the diplomatic, economic, cultural and human fields,) [passage in parenthesis in English] that is, peace which includes diplomatic, economic, cultural and human relations. It also calls for a new system within the area, for a set of international relations. The third thing in this document, which has very good definitions from Israel's viewpoint on the issue of the withdrawal, is that it is written that the important thing in a peace settlement is to create open borders, in accordance with Resolution 242, and that Israel has to retreat in every sector to open borders which must be agreed upon. That is, it is not just a withdrawal from territories, but a withdrawal to agreed and open borders and also, in settling the borders Israel's security needs must be taken into account. The fourth point is the matter of the Palestinians' self-determination. In contrast to the Aswan version there is no mention here of Palestinian people, that is, not of the Palestinian people but of the Palestinians and it recognizes the Palestinians' right to participate in determining their future themselves through negotiations by their own elected representatives.

Well, in all the main points there are in my view definitions which are acceptable to Israel, certainly acceptable to the Labor Party, and I do not remember any better document than this.

[Golan] Maybe acceptable to Israel and the Labor Party but certainly not acceptable to our neighbors or to the president of Egypt.

[Peres] You say certainly not acceptable to them and I say certainly yes. An Egyptian speaks officially and announces that this document is acceptable to them. I have read editorials in the Egyptian papers which support this document and this is also its greatness; not only was it issued by an important international organization, but Egypt also supports it.

[Ginossar] Did the president of Egypt, in your meetings with him, agree with the Vienna document?

[Peres] The document was submitted by the two important people in this sphere, Mr Willy Brandt and Mr Bruno Kreisky, and I understand that the president of Egypt agreed to it. I do not have to speak in the name of the president of Egypt, nor do I want to commit him. You can ask me as far as I am concerned.

[Golan] We will return to this later. Today in the Knesset the prime minister said that in your meeting with the president of Egypt in Vienna you did not ask As-Sadat whether he would agree to a territorial compromise in Judaea and Samaria, with the prime minister describing this as the royal road to peace, as the only way which has no equal. Did you ask As-Sadat this question?

[Peres] I specifically asked As-Sadat, and I am surprised at the prime minister, who reported on my report, which he did not hear, to the Knesset. He should have heard me first. I said I had called him and since I learned that there was to be a debate in the Knesset today, I suggested to him that I report to him before the Knesset debate so that, in his remarks to the Knesset, he would know the exact picture. I have no complaint with the prime minister, that he did not make himself free at that moment, but to get up on the Knesset podium and to say, without knowing what I spoke about and what I did not speak about, greatly amazed me.

[Ginossar] Did the president of Egypt agree to territorial compromise?

[Peres] The president of Egypt will never use--nor do I expect him to use--Hebrew words or Israeli concepts. I do not want to commit him, and it is not my duty. I can only say that, from what he said in public on various occasions, first, that he agrees to border amendments--by the way, I did not hear the word minor border amendments; second, that Israel has the right to security comfort in Judaea and Samaria. In private talks maybe we went further. I cannot tell you what the president of Egypt answered. I can tell you that, on that occasion, which was really broad, I explained in great detail why Israel cannot return to the 1967 borders, why two-thirds of the State of Israel cannot live on a coastal strip 14-km wide. I explained to him that Jerusalem cannot be divided. Now, I am not prepared to report publicly the replies of the president of Egypt. I can say that on every question there is both a gap and a chance.

[Ginossar] I want to go back for a moment to the Vienna document. With regard to the acceptability of this document by the Alinement, I would like to ask you whether you will ask the Alinement institutions, the institutions of the Labor Party, to discuss this document and to adopt it? I understand that the Socialist International Bureau is due to discuss it next month or in September.

[Peres] The answer is completely positive. I will highly recommend to the Labor Party that it do this. I also want to add that the foreign minister, in his speech to the Knesset on 9 June, told the Knesset for the first time that the Cabinet of Israel had submitted a document to the United States in which there are two very interesting versions of 242: One is that Israel is prepared to hold negotiations on the basis of this resolution, which is a basis for negotiations between Israel and all the neighboring countries, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon and, in clause 3 of that proposal, it says: On the basis of the principles of Resolution 242 referred to above, there will be a withdrawal of Israeli military forces from territories taken in the 1967 dispute.

[Golan] What do you want to prove in that sentence?

[Peres] That sentence, despite the fact that the cabinet avoided being specific on this issue, made a broad and very deep commitment on the matter of 242. However, after 2 months of hesitation, after 2 months during which we weakened our position in the world, after Minister Landau said that 242 did not apply to Judaea and Samaria--afterward the cabinet began a tactical retreat, belatedly, and, in my view, this did not do anything for Israel.

[Ginossar] Mr Shim'on Peres, you return to 242, you say that the President of Egypt did not speak about a minor withdrawal and I....

[Peres] I am speaking about his public appearances.

[Ginossar] Yes, and I want....

[Peres] As for the private talks, there are very interesting things which I do not want to speak about. I am speaking about his public statements; he said that he takes into account that border changes are necessary in Judaea and Samaria. I think that what I can say, without damaging discretion, is that the president of Egypt distinguishes very well indeed between Sinai, where, according to him, there is a historic or international border, and Judaea and Samaria, where the border is a result of wars. In fact, it is not a border, but lines, while in Sinai, according to him, Israel has nothing to worry about because he is proposing full and genuine and diplomatic peace and so on. He recognizes the fact that in Judaea and Samaria Israel may have security problems and so it is also entitled to continue its measures there.

[Ginossar] Are you speaking about being in public? After all, what is more public than Egypt's latest proposals, proposals which are a part of the talks in London now, where the reference is to full withdrawal.

[Peres] You are forgetting that I am not the representative of Egypt and I do not have to explain its positions. I can only tell you....

[Ginossar] No, it's just that I find a contradiction between....

[Peres] There is no contradiction, because there is a difference between opening positions, the paper which was submitted, we must assume that they are the opening positions. Were we only talking about documents I would not have to talk at all. We must make a distinction between opening documents and negotiations, assumptions, evaluations and also things said in private. I will also draw your attention to the fact that, within the cabinet, the man who spoke in favor, relatively, of long talks with As-Sadat, Mr 'Ezer Weizman, evaluates the situation, more or less, in the same way.

[Ginossar] Did you not feel, for the whole of those 3 and 1/2 hours during which you spoke with As-Sadat, that the president of Egypt was trying to use you to get at the cabinet?

[Peres] How can he use me? I do not understand at all. What sort of terms are these? To use me? We are a democratic country and there is a difference between how a democracy works and how a country where, let us say, there is only one president and so on, works. I think that this underlined for the public our being an open society and a society which does not conceal the alternatives which exist in it but, since we have gone so far, it appears to me that I can quote one thing: when we spoke together at the press conference and one of the correspondents asked:

How is it that you, an opposition member, are speaking with the president of Egypt? I told him that the Knesset--there is a cabinet and there is an opposition, but in actuality, we are a united nation. To this the president of Egypt said--and it is one of the replies I most enjoyed hearing--I think this is a patriotic approach and I also feel this. What does that mean? That the president of Egypt should decide how we are divided, how we are split? Are we so weak that we depend on him? By the way, the first to begin to turn the president of Egypt into a weigher of Israel was the Likud movement. This must not be forgotten. I read that at the Herut center they said that the president of Egypt will not decide who is fat and who is thin. Even if I speak now about the heavy weight there is in these remarks--but the first who began to give the president of Egypt this right to decide were the Likud people. Right after As-Sadat's visit they said: He did not come to you; he did come to us. Afterward, when the president of Egypt--when the prime minister of Israel was in Ismailia, he returned a happy man. The secret of the happiness was attributed to the president of Egypt.

[Golan] [Words indistinct] spoke with you. One of the papers quoted that, after your meeting with him, he stated that he left the meeting happy. Does that not worry you a little?

[Peres] I am not at all worried by what is said; and if he was concerned that he left unhappy, so what? Better that he should say happy. What is bad in that?

[Ginossar] We remember the tone of people who come out of talks happy and afterward the picture gets a little turned around.

[Peres] I understand that you have complaints about the president of Egypt on this matter.

[Ginossar] Mr Peres, how do you explain the intervention in the relationship between the cabinet and the Knesset on the political plane? What I mean is what happened on Sunday at the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, which was invited to hear a report from the minister of defense on the Salzburg talks and was prevented from doing so.

[Peres] I can say, with complete calm and also in all seriousness, that there has never been a cabinet which so scorned the Knesset and its committees as this cabinet. Where has it been heard of, that a fateful decision is made on the evacuation of the whole of Sinai and is not brought for debate by the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee? The excuse of secrecy is ridiculous. How did the secrecy help the debates?

[Ginossar] Well, Minister Burg said that the cabinet did not debate because they feared leaks.

[Peres] And when there are no leaks, then do we have peace? When there are no leaks we have no debate, that's all.

[Ginossar] There is a possibility, maybe more than a theoretical one, that the cabinet, or Mr Begin, may oppose any additional contacts by you with As-Sadat if you plan to continue with such contacts. How will you behave in such a case?

[Peres] First of all, I do not believe that Mr Begin will do that. We are not an appointed opposition. We are not officials in a ministry....

[Ginossar] An elected opposition....

[Peres] We are an elected opposition, and independent opposition. In my view, a governmental official, when he gives a citizen a negative answer, must explain it in accordance with the law of the country, and I have not heard that the cabinet is planning for us to leave the Socialist International or that we should stop activity in the world. Of course, Mr Begin can decide that we should be isolated from the whole world. That would be his decision. On its wisdom, its practicality, we will argue when the time comes.

[Ginossar] You have certainly heard and you remember that when you went [to Vienna] there was criticism, they recalled that when Nahum Goldmann wanted to go [meet As-Sadat] Prime Minister Golda Meir said no, you are not going.

[Peres] As usual, all information here suffers from onesidedness and particularly from inaccuracy. As far as I know, Mrs Golda Meir told Mr Nahum Goldmann: You can go. But Mr Goldmann wanted the cabinet to publicize that he was going with its approval. This is something completely different. I did not ask the cabinet for its approval, because I did not go to hold negotiations.

[Ginossar] If I may go back to the European places you visited. In the past, there was a tendency, some sort of tendency, to scorn or to denigrate Europe's political power as concerns the conflict of the Middle East negotiations. First, do you share this view? Maybe we can hear your answer on this issue?

[Peres] I do not like us to be scorned and I do not propose that we scorn others. After all, we are, to an appreciable degree, dependent on the positions of various countries and, for example, I was very happy that Mr Begin himself went to London to meet with Callaghan, wants to go to Paris, went even to Romania, a country which is not particularly, let us say, democratic or free, to hold prolonged talks with Ceausescu and he very much valued this. I think this was correct.

[Ginossar] The prime minister today called the chancellor of Austria, Bruno Kreisky, with more than a little sarcasm, the proud Jew. We must admit that there is no small amount of reservation in Israel about Kreisky; maybe because of his striking style, maybe because of what appears to be his too close proximity to the Arabs, maybe even because of his being Jewish. You met with him, you know him, what is your impression of Bruno Kreisky? Who is he?

[Peres] I am one of the Jews who are not anti-Semitic. I am not prepared to hate someone only because he is a Jew. There is one thing which is clear with regard to Bruno Kreisky and that is that he is the only prime minister in Europe who agreed to establish on his land a transit camp for the Jews of Russia. He told me in a private conversation: Believe me, one of the things I am most proud of is that 160,000 Jews left Russia and came to Vienna. None of them was harmed. Nothing happened to any of them. He said, show me another European country which is prepared to do this. So, with all respect to statements, the loved and the unloved ones, in political life we must also take facts into account. He has views which are different from ours, not all of which I accept, but let us also admit that this time, Mr Kreisky moved toward us, not us toward him. I tell you that I very much regretted the scorn heard today in what the prime minister said. What is all this scorn?

If, let us say, as the prime minister of Austria, there stood a man who did not permit this and had made statements against Israel, would they also scorn him? Would they also say, this is a proud Goy or a supercilious Goy? I do not understand all this scorn. I do not like people to scorn the prime minister of Israel, but, even less do I think that our prime minister should scorn his fellow.

[Ginossar] Did you draw the attention of the president of Egypt to the scorn with which he treats the prime minister of Israel?

[Peres] I drew the president of Egypt's attention to the fact that he must hold significant negotiations with the prime minister of Israel. I am not a man who has to go and educate everyone else. I told him, on several different occasions, that I am convinced that the prime minister of Israel wants peace.

[Ginossar] Let us return to the London talks. What do you expect? What announcement can be expected from the London talks today?

[Peres] I am not a prophet, but it is my impression that all the time, behind the talks, around the corner, the hope is concealed that, if these talks fail, there will be some sort of U.S. proposal. I am extremely unhappy about this, just as I am not happy about two other things which have been done. One, why did we have to break away from a declaration of principles and get into a debate on substantials, on codes with regard to Judaea and Samaria, with Egypt? The matter, for example, of territorial compromise in Judaea and Samaria, must be discussed with Husayn, not with As-Sadat. He should be the partner there and we have not asked, as Mr Begin says, for territorial compromise on all the fronts. We have asked for defensible borders in Sinai, on the Golan Heights and a territorial compromise and defensible borders in Judaea and Samaria. I understand even less why they pressed so hard for an Egyptian proposal. Was it so hard to understand that an Egyptian proposal would only deepen the fissure? An Egyptian proposal would be neither a Zionist nor an Israeli proposal and now I think that the hope is for a U.S. proposal. I advised anyone I could, in England and elsewhere, not to go for a U.S. proposal. It will only make the situation worse.

[Ginossar] Is As-Sadat, by the way, also interested in our holding negotiations with Husayn over the West Bank?

[Peres] Specifically. He says, first, that he sees a link, as he calls it, a link between Judaea and Samaria and Jordan. He thought that a declaration of principles would clear the way for Husayn's joining the negotiations.

[Ginossar] The opposition of the foreign minister to the declaration of principles is very simple: He says that after a declaration of principles you have to talk business and you have to discuss details, so why a declaration of principles, let's get down to details.

[Peres] A very simple reply. A declaration of principles would end our negotiations with Egypt and open our negotiations with Jordan and with Jordan we would discuss details. Either we would agree or not, but at least with one partner we would end negotiations, either we would put a period, or, in the worse case, a comma. We would move on.

[Ginossar] Mr Peres, how do you explain the change which occurred in U.S. policy toward the Middle East and us even before the revolution? [change in government] I mean, more and more rapprochement to Arab positions.

[Peres] I think that the Americans, first of all, really see what is happening in the Middle East with American eyes, that is, they see the Soviet efforts, the very serious ones, to take control of the African Continent, to conquer strongholds along the Red Sea coast, in the Horn of Africa, and they certainly consider the Arabs today more than they did before. They always considered the Arabs. What always balanced the situation was the fact that U.S. public opinion stood like a firm rock at the side of Israel because Israel, in my view, also made the correct claim: the country's security needs. As soon as we began to add other claims, to my regret not acceptable to the U.S. people, our status became weaker, not necessarily with the State Department, it was not always strong there, but with public opinion, in the Senate, in the House of Representatives and so on.

[Ginossar] Mr Peres, did you gain the impression from your talks with As-Sadat that the communist threat really has a big, an important place in the latest moves by Egypt?

[Peres] Definitely, yes. Egypt regards this issue as the main issue which hangs like a gloomy shadow over the whole of the Middle East. It speaks of two Soviet attempts, one along the Red Sea, the second along the breadth of the African Continent. It sees what, in fact, many see--the events in Afghanistan and in South Yemen as events which spring from the same strategy, despite the fact that their location is different--and, even without him telling me so, I can imagine what anyone standing at the head of Egypt would feel if he knew that the Russians are sitting on the sources of the Blue and White Nile and Soviet experts are sitting at the side of Al-Qadhdhafi, who according to As-Sadat, is completely insane.

[Golan] Mr Peres, today you levelled criticism from the Knesset podium at the cabinet's understanding of Resolution 242. You said that this has caused and will cause grave damage to Israel's image. Also, in the course of our discussion now, you expressed reservations about their understanding. I want to return to this point. Does the interpretation of 242, in the Alinement's view, not stand in complete contradiction to the position of As-Sadat and Jordan, to the effect that no peace is possible without a full Israeli withdrawal? Let us forget Jerusalem for the moment, and without evacuating the settlement?

[Peres] Not at all. I have not heard that this is the interpretation of 242 by those two countries. I have heard that they have such positions, but 242 has something which Mr. Kissinger calls constructive ambiguity, and there is certainly room for differing interpretations and I do not suggest that Israel accept the Egyptian interpretation. Why on earth should I?

[Golan] How can we advance if we accept neither the Jordanian nor the Egyptian interpretation?

[Peres] If there were agreement, we would not need negotiations. The question is not whether we are beginning the negotiations in agreement. We are beginning them in non-agreement. I only estimate that it is possible to come to agreement and I make a distinction between opening positions and closing positions.

[Ginossar] This question is a disturbing one, because it constantly weighs on us. We see a clear, intransigent line from the one side and there is the feeling that we are holding a dialog with ourselves.

[Peres] Look, you are pressing me all the time to, as it were, take the other side. I will take it, because I think that I must look at things clearly, with a conscience. There have been changes in the Egyptian positions and they are: for the first time As-Sadat is talking about peace now, not about peace in the next generation. He speaks about diplomatic relations. He speaks about border amendments. He does not speak about a Palestinian state. So, a part of the negotiations will be concluded in the positive, a part not in the positive, but we already, once, agree to 242. Why have we now reminded ourselves to go back on this? This is what is eroding Israel's status. We agreed, despite the fact that we knew that it had differing interpretations and, after all, why does Israel have to think so much that we are holding the territories. It is not the interpretation which is holding the place. The situation is that what the Egyptians have is an interpretation and what we have is a grasp. Someone who has an interpretation plus a hold, his situation is better than the one who has an interpretation without a hold.

[Ginossar] I want to go on with the issue of your visit to London. You held talks there with members of the Labor Party.

[Peres] I hope that the foreign minister will not forbid me to hold talks in London with members of the Labor Party.

[Ginossar] What did you hear from them? What do they want from us? What do they expect of us?

[Peres] I think that the main point--I cannot quote who told me so, because here, too, to hold contacts, political contacts, you must be discreet--I cannot get up and say, what this one told me, what that one told me, next time he will not tell me--but the main point about which they are speaking is that in Judaea and Samaria, during the transition period, there must be shared responsibilities, that is, joint Jordanian-Israeli responsibility. This was the main point. Mr. Callaghan also asked me what Israel's view is toward the convening of the seven heads of the EEC. I told him that our main request--that of the Labor Party--is that they should not submit to a U.S. program, because I think that if a U.S. program does come out, it will increase the confusion, it will lead to a situation in which all the sides will take up positions against it and there will simply be yet another superfluous argument. I prefer that the United States should continue to play a role of an honest mediator, as it is called, until the sides come to a closure of the gaps between them.

[Ginossar] By the way, Mr Peres, as the head of a relatively new Social Democratic Party, how do you feel you were accepted among the leaders of the Socialist International? Do you feel that they are coming toward you, are they....

[Peres] They say that if nobody gives you compliments, give yourself compliments. I certainly feel good. There is a thing called solidarity among socialist parties. Since the Labor Party suffered a great deal in the election, there is an appreciable effort on the part of all the parties to come to its aid and, by the way, this is how they behave toward all the parties which lose elections and this is something accepted in democratic regimes. I also feel today that there is a personal set of relations, a very good one--I very much praise the work of Willy Brandt toward Israel. I believe that he is a loyal and good friend. I also think that Kreisky contributed a great deal indeed in the texting of that document and if one speaks with respect, as we should, then Mr. Kreisky, too, can bring no inconsiderable benefit to Israel. It is a fact that Mr Kreisky played on the Palestinian flute for a very long time. This has stopped. This is a very important change, which I welcome and respect and we are accepted everywhere with friendship and comradeship, but, you know what, why should we discuss....

[Ginossar] Sorry, but on this point, let us for a moment return to the Vienna document just in order to ask what, in your view, is the operative potential of such a paper when--if and when--it is adopted by the congress of the Socialist International in Canada at the end of the year?

[Peres] First of all, don't forget that most of the countries of Europe today are ruled by social democratic governments. The positions of the parties--I do not say that they determine absolutely, but they have a very deep influence on the government's positions and even social democratic parties which are not in power are very important bodies in parliaments in Europe and it is not, by the way, inconceivable that they will be the majority in the European Parliament. Therefore, the adoption of such a position has a real political implication. I also think that, from several aspects, the very fact that Egypt supports this document is a certain Egyptian rapprochement with positions which appear to be more convenient for Israel.

[Ginossar] On what basis did you, and also Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, return from the talks with As-Sadat with the feeling that there is a point in a continuation of the dialog because there is a change? There are proposals which must be dealt with sympathetically on the part of Israel?

[Peres] I did not hold negotiations with Mr as-Sadat, I only had talks, I can only tell you this: My general impression from the talks--which lasted for nearly 4 hours since, apart from the private talks between us, there was also, there were two joint talks in which Mr Brandt and Mr Kreisky took part--is based on the following points: As-Sadat has apparently identified his future with the peace settlement and he apparently thinks that the achievement or nonachievement of a settlement has an effect on the success of the policy with which he is identified. Second, I have already spoken about the matter of the Soviet danger which has become much graver, in his view, in the area. In my view, too. And, third, we spoke about concepts which aroused warmth in my heart about the role Israel is likely to play in the development of the area and the advancement of its inhabitants.

[Ginossar] He put this forward? Or did you....

[Peres] The word "he" will not exist. It was put forward. I am not prepared to attribute any sentence to anyone.

[Ginossar] When you put forward....

[Peres] No. It is clear....

[Ginossar] But did he also climb onto that wagon?

[Peres] I think that you can hear clearly, you understand that I am saying it was not I who put it forward. I remember myself in the youth movement, at a young age in the country, how we dreamed that such a day would come when Israel would be spoken of as a constructive contributor to the development of the area, to its being rescued from its poverty and disease, to regional cooperation. It is true that this is still not spoken of in public because the Arab world is also going through a sort of process of change. We are today asking whether As-Sadat invited me or anyone else in order to make an impression on public opinion in Israel. We forget that there are problems of public opinion in the Arab world. He certainly has an interest in showing that the momentum is continuing. By the way, our cabinet could also have invited Egyptian people, this wouldn't hurt at all.

[Ginossar] Do you think they would respond and come?

[Peres] Why should I reply for them? Let us say, that if they did not respond, what would we lose?

[Ginossar] Who would you recommend that the cabinet invite here?

[Peres] You know what, the whole Egyptian parliament....

[Ginossar] Today the prime minister said he is even prepared to invite As-Sadat again for talks.

[Peres] So, let him invite him. He does not need permission from me, but I would certainly invite members of the government, journalists, authors, many people. Even, you know, if one solitary Egyptian were to come here at his own expense, it would certainly be nice if he went around the Knesset, was photographed, whatever.

[Ginossar] Do you think there is a chance that Israelis who also want to try the same dialog and go to Egypt would be given such an opportunity?

[Peres] By the government?

[Ginossar] The Government of Egypt.

[Peres] I do not....

[Ginossar] But you spoke with As-Sadat....

[Peres] But I did not speak about that and....

[Ginossar] Would you encourage such a thing?

[Peres] Me? Yes. I think that our cabinet ought to encourage it. But I cannot take on commitments in the name of the Government of Egypt simply because I met with As-Sadat.

[Golan] By the way, we heard yesterday about a member of the Knesset who has already submitted a request to the Foreign Ministry for permission to go to Egypt, Dov Shilanski, who is relying on the interview given by As-Sadat to David....

[Peres] I think that it would be beneficial for Egypt, I think that it would be beneficial to Dov Shilanski, to both of them.

[Ginossar] If I may again return to the relations between you, as head of the opposition, the head of the largest opposition faction, and the prime minister. Today I saw you, after the great storm in the Knesset and the verbal clash during the prime ministers reply, I saw you and the prime minister sitting at a table in the cafeteria quite comfortably, in an atmosphere--at least from the outside--not of enmity. I understand that you reported to him, of course, on the talk with As-Sadat. Is the reporting and bringing up to date two-way? Are you satisfied with the relations with the prime minister, the relations of the head of the opposition with the prime minister?

[Peres] It is my duty to report and I fulfilled my duty as I should. If I compare what the prime minister said about the desired relations between him and the leader of the opposition with what actually happens, I have no special reason to be satisfied. To date the prime minister has only once invited me on his own initiative. All the other talks were on my initiative.

[Ginossar] Is the set of relations within the cabinet and the reactions of the defense minister, since his return from Salzburg--does this not remind you of any similar scenario before the Likud rose to power?

[Peres] Not at all. I do not remember a situation in any Alinement cabinet when, on the eve of a serious government debate on an operative issue, the three or four ministers concerned with the matter did not meet, that is, the prime minister, the foreign minister, the defense minister, and clarify among themselves thoroughly what there was to propose to the cabinet, something responsible, in common from all aspects. There has never yet been such a case in which the prime minister and the foreign minister submit a document without at all consulting with the defense minister. The minister of defense is not just a man; he stands at the head of a very large hierarchy in which there is the military general staff, there is the Ministry of Defense. Where has such a thing been heard of, where has it ever been heard of that one minister does not show a document to another minister, even though afterward, for the press, one has something to say about the other. I do not remember such a phenomenon.

[Ginossar] I wanted, on the same issue, I wanted to ask--maybe it is a style--I wanted to ask you with regard to the technique of the cabinet functioning and its method of making decisions, how do you compare this technique with that of the previous cabinet? You also took part in carrying on talks with Kissinger....

[Peres] You know, this cabinet is authoritative, this cabinet does not leak, this cabinet works in harmony, in this cabinet everyone agrees with one another, in this cabinet....

[Golan] Mr Peres, it is impossible to claim that there was too much harmony in the previous cabinet.

[Peres] Just a minute. First of all, in the previous cabinet, I do not remember a case, despite everything written in the press, when on any serious security or political issue, there was not real consultation of ministers and their aides in the military, political and civilian spheres. There were cases where we sat for days and nights and argued--I do not say you cannot argue--but to argue before the decision, so that everyone knows. In most of the deliberations the chief of staff, the heads of the GHQ, the personnel from the services, all took part. Did we hide anything from one another?

[Ginossar] I did not mean that, I meant harmony from the aspect of the lack of leaks.

[Peres] I did not say that, but I did say that this cabinet is the best in the world, the best in all history and we see what it looks like.

BEGIN PREPARED TO ACCOMPANY AS-SADAT TO MOUNT SINAI

TA191125Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] Israel would welcome Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat if he expressed the desire to lay a corner-stone for the "peace mosque" on Mount Sinai. This was learned yesterday in Jerusalem.

During the As-Sadat-Weizman talks the Egyptian president said that he intends to visit Israel before October in order to lay the corner-stone for a common house of prayer for the three religions near the Santa Katerina Monastery.

It has been reported by sources in Jerusalem that the Egyptian president would be received with all honors and Prime Minister Menahem Begin would even accompany him to Sinai. The sources said that in such an event "Mr Begin would be able to lay the cornerstone for a Synagogue there."

SHARON, WEIZMAN DISPUTE REPORTEDLY INTENSIFIES

TA191451Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Text] The personal dispute between Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon has become much more intense since Sunday's cabinet meeting and reached a peak yesterday with Weizman and Sharon supporters accusing each other of incitement and leaks.

In the opinion of government observers in Jerusalem an unprecedented campaign of leaks and mudslinging is being conducted against 'Ezer Weizman, aimed at bringing about his removal from the Defense Ministry and the appointment of Ari'el Sharon in his place. Yesterday, various circles were spreading rumors attributed to Sharon that in his talk with As-Sadat Weizman had abandoned the Golan Heights. It is said that in his talk with As-Sadat Weizman said that a distinction should be made between Judaea and Samaria--for which clear sovereignty had never been decided--and Sinai and the Golan Heights. According to Sharon, Weizman hinted that Israel is prepared to withdraw from the Golan Heights in the same manner that it is prepared to withdraw from Sinai.

Meanwhile, people in the MAFDAL have made it clear that they will not allow any attack to be made against Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. This also is the view of the Liberal Party leadership which will be conducting a political debate on Thursday.

People in the Liberal Party and MAFDAL have made it clear that whatever happens they will strongly oppose Ari'el Sharon's appointment to the Defense Ministry and will do all they can to prevent Weizman from leaving the cabinet.

MAFDAL ministers together with MAFDAL members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday criticized Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan for raising the possibility of interim agreements in the framework of an agreement with Egypt without prior discussion in the cabinet. They also protested Dayan's proposal to unilaterally activate the autonomy plan in Judaea. Samaria and the Gaza Strip even without a peace agreement.

The MAFDAL ministers have made their position known to Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

DRAFT LAW AMENDMENT PASSED; RELIGIOUS GIRLS EXEMPT

TA200657Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Jul 78 TA

[Text] The law allowing girls to avoid conscription for religious reasons was passed by the Knesset last night after a debate that lasted 12 and 1/2 hours. It was passed by a majority of 54 to 45 votes from opposition and DMC Knesset members.

The main modification in the law as formulated by the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee in the wake of a compromise reached with Agudat Yisra'el provides that girls will be able to avoid conscription by declaring in writing to a judge or rabbinical judge that religious consciousness prevents them from serving in the security services, that they keep Kashrut at home and outside the home and do not travel on Sabbath. The new law also provides that if declarations are found to be false the girls will be conscripted.

MINISTERS CALL FOR EHRLICH'S RESIGNATION

TA191110Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 19 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Etan Lifshitz]

[Text] Yesterday, cabinet ministers expressed the view that Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich should consider resigning in the wake of yesterday's discussion on the budget supplement.

Political and parliamentary sources told the HA'AREZ correspondent yesterday that in private talks during the day ministers had expressed the view that Ehrlich, despite his self-confidence, had lost his ability to campaign for the budget proposal that he had submitted. They also pointed out that despite the prime minister's reprimand of Ministers Moda'i and Horowitz (over the criticism that they leveled publicly) he did not come out in defense of the finance minister's proposal at the end of the debate. Begin cut the debate short saying that he was using his authority to postpone the vote until the following Sunday.

Parliamentary circles said yesterday that the prime minister and the finance minister might find themselves surprised in the Knesset Finance Committee where it appears that the proposal does not have a majority. This morning, Likud members of the Finance Committee intend to conduct urgent consultations. Some of them are preparing a proposal that the Likud faction in the Knesset call upon the finance minister to desist from submitting his proposal for cabinet approval next Sunday and, instead, to prepare a proposal for another cut.

Senior government officials said yesterday that the finance minister had failed on two major issues: first that he had not succeeded in obtaining the prime minister's prior and unreserved support for the proposal; and second, that he had not obtained the agreement of a sufficient number of ministers in advance.

The officials claim that the impression to be gained from yesterday's cabinet deliberations is that those ministers who spoke based themselves on reports and commentaries in the press without understanding the essence of the proposal. The officials said that the remarks of some of the participants showed a lack of basic information.

"The ministers did not understand that the proposal is a reflection of the situation arising from decisions taken by the cabinet several months ago," said a source very close to the finance minister.

Ehrlich Not Resigning

TA191111Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Yizhaq Dish]

[Text] This morning the finance minister told MA'ARIV that he is not considering resigning in the wake of yesterday's cabinet debate on the additional budget and that such a demand is out of the question.

The finance minister said that he had submitted the additional budget with the full support of Prime Minister Begin. He is certainly prepared to hear practical suggestions on how to cut the budget. As for the proposal to cut a billion pounds in wages, he said that this would mean the firing of 10,000 workers. "I would like to see the hero who does that," he said.

Ehrlich said: The budget does not have to be endorsed unanimously. If a majority decides to reject the budget then this is an expression of no confidence.

CORRESPONDENT DISCUSSES DISHARMONY IN LIKUD

TA200938Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 78 p 9 TA

[Dan Margalit commentary]

[Text] Two members of the Likud faction are sitting in the chairman's seat. The Herut representative maintains: It is all mine. The Liberal candidate claims: Half is mine. Until the matter is decided a crisis will plague the largest parliamentary faction, which is at the height of a political campaign and faces a difficult test on the issue of the recruitment of girls.

The first allocation of jobs was agreed upon in July 1977. According to protocol, Hayyim Corfu of Herut was appointed chairman of the coalition. Next to his name it was written in the protocol that he was "first." At the same time, Mr Avraham Sharir was appointed faction chairman. It was written that he was "duty" chairman. During the days that the Likud was celebrating its victory no one delved into the difference between "first" and "duty."

A year after the election victory the celebrations are over. Relations between Herut and the Liberals have not remained idyllic. Knesset members from Herut have attacked Liberal ministers and Knesset members from the Liberal Party have criticized the Herut ministers. The Liberals were defeated with their presidential candidate, Elimelekh Rimalt, and Herut was defeated with its candidate, Prof Yizhaq Chavet. Herut did not get the job of Knesset speaker, but its representative, Deputy Minister Yoram Aridor, had his entry into the Jewish Agency Executive blocked. With the members of Herut now demanding of MK Sharir that the chairmanship of the faction be handed over to MK Hayyim Kaufman, the Liberals have asked for consideration: chairmanship of the coalition which is in the hands of Hayyim Corfu of Herut.

Last week, pressure on Herut to get the job increased. However, Sharir is not quick to give up. At a meeting that took place at Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office Sharir presented his case. Begin asked to see the protocol of a year ago. It was explained to Begin that if MK Corfu was "first," then a time must come when the "second" replaces him. MK Sharir, the Liberal, wished to be the "second."

Begin called for MK Corfu. The prime minister appealed to his emotions. He decided that the Gahal agreement also applies to the chairmanship of the coalition. Herut had to hand it over to Sharir. However, since Herut is larger than the Liberal Party by a ratio of seven to five, vacant jobs in the future will be allocated in accordance with this ratio. Thus, now, Sharir had to forfeit the chairmanship of the faction and he would take Corfu's place as chairman of the coalition only on 15 October. Sharir rejoiced and Corfu grumbled.

A word is enough between gentlemen. However, Sharir demanded a written timetable for Herut's withdrawal from its positions. He proposed that the timetable cover a period from the present to the end of the Knesset's term. The members of Herut refused. The Liberals were faced with a surprise when they came to the meeting of the factions' executive: MK Corfu announced that he had not asked for Begin's arbitration and he had not been authorized by the Herut faction to accept it.

The liberals could not believe their ears. MK Sara Doron and MK HIllel Seidel warned the Likud leadership that it was destroying the government without any help from the opposition. If Begin's ruling does not obligate the Herut Knesset faction then who does it obligate? Corfu shrugged his shoulders and remained silent. Begin met him on the following day and made an ironic remark but there was no change. Hervt claimed that everything belonged to it--chairmanship of the Knesset, the coalition and the faction.

The Liberals appealed to Begin. Herut shrugged its shoulders. MK Hayyim Kaufman claimed that the job had already been handed over to him. MK Sharir answered, no. Both presented themselves as "chairman of the Likud faction." For 5 minutes Kaufman claimed that he had been given the job while Sharir denied this. Both sides tried to overcome the difficulties and set up a joint committee. However, the committee, which began its deliberations in the Knesset cafeteria, moved its meetings behind the scenes and, later, its members could be seen loitering along the Knesset corridors holding private talks. However, to no purpose. The crisis continued.

Herut wished to present the deadlock simply as a personal matter, of the type that affects all parliamentary factions. However, in private talks Knesset members admitted that the crisis is not only a result of private aspirations but a manifestation of a crisis in leadership that has been plaguing the large faction. The Knesset members are living with the feeling that "upstairs" in the government everything is in a state of chaos. 'Ezer Weizman's relations with Ari'el Sharon or Mig'al Horowitz, or relations between Yizhaq Moda'i and Simha Erlich have reached a situation defined by one political commentator as "the blackest days of the previous government."

Even lower down in the faction there is an atmosphere of breakdown; Knesset members are doing virtually what they want and do not respond to the demands of the faction's "whip." Now, the crisis has affected the middle stratum--the parliamentary leadership which is trapped between the faction below and the government above. Corfu, Kaufman and Sharir represent a much deeper crisis.

AIR FORCE CHIEF CONCERNED OVER AIR POWER BALANCE

TA200830Y Jerusalem POST in English 20 Jul 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Air force chief Maj Gen David 'Ivri yesterday expressed concern over the changing balance of air power in the Middle East.

Speaking to military correspondents on the eve of air force day, 'Ivri said the balance was changing not only because of increased arms purchases by the Arab confrontation states, but also because of the qualitative improvements resulting from more and more Western equipment being sold to the Arab world.

Of special concern were developments on Israel's eastern front, he said, revealing that since the Yom Kippur War the Syrians had more than doubled their military air capability. In addition to investing heavily on air defense systems, from both the East and West, the Syrians have also received MIG-23's and SU-20's, and attack helicopters from the West.

The Jordanians, he said, have become an air power worthy of worrying about both offensively and defensively, having absorbed both F-5E fighters and 14 batteries of improved Hawk anti-aircraft missiles. "They have become a front-line power," 'Ivri said.

He reiterated what is known about the massive Saudi Arabian arms acquisition programme. He noted that in addition to the continued buildup of forces at the modern Tabuk base, the Saudis were also building new airfields all along the country's borders--particularly along their northwestern frontier, where the obvious target is for Israel. 'Ivri added that the Saudis have been concentrating on combined force maneuvers in the Tabuk area.

Much the same could be said for developments in Iraq, he continued. The Iraqis were spending huge sums on aircraft and defenses.

'Ivri said that by year's end the Egyptians will be training on the F-5E, recently granted them as part of the U.S. "package deal," which gave Israel F-15's and F-16's, and the Saudis F-15's. While admitting that the transition in the Egyptian Air Force from Soviet to Western aircraft had caused certain maintenance problems, the Egyptians were still capable of fielding their Soviet aircraft.

The answer to all this, he said, is that the Israel Air Force continues to forge ahead, purchasing new systems and improving the entire air defense system, from intelligence gathering, better warning and communications systems and the actual planes themselves. Anti-aircraft capability has also improved. This was facilitated by the absorption of Soviet-made 23mm double-barrelled anti-aircraft cannon, taken as booty in the 1973 war.

He said the air force was currently negotiating the purchase terms of the F-15 and F-16 fighters earmarked for Israel by the U.S. Senate, as part of the package deal. There was no indication that the negotiations were being held up by political consideration. "All is going according to plan with the negotiations. The teams are currently discussing cost factors and delivery timetables," he said, dispelling recent rumors that the U.S. was holding back on the deal to pressure Israel into greater political concessions.

On the subject of Israel's proposed next generation fighter, the Arye, 'Ivri said that if the plane was not flying instead of being on paper, and if the prototype was all the drawings promised, he would purchase the aircraft without a moment's hesitation.

However, this was not the case, he said. There have been 17 committees on the problem and to date no decision had been taken. Even after the decision was made, he continued, it would take between 7 and 9 years before the plane became operational, and he had to worry about maintaining the balance of power during the interim.

Whether or not the plane should be built depended also on the final number of aircraft one could expect to sell. Development costs were so high, he said, that even on a plane with sales of 1,000, 10 to 15 percent of the price of each aircraft covered the original cost of development. There is no way that the production of the aircraft could be carried out on the current air force or even Defense Ministry budgets, he said.

Continuing on the subject of the Arye (on which some 250 million Israeli pounds has already been spent on initial development) 'Ivri said that according to what he had seen at the Israel Aircraft Industries, the performance of the Arye would not fall short of those of the F-15 or the F-16. "Of course," he said, "each aircraft has its own strengths and shortcomings, but overall the Arye would be a comparable aircraft to both the F-15 and F-16."

USSR REPORTEDLY HELPING CREATE PLO AIR FORCE

TA191631Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Jul 78 TA

[Text] A Cairo newspaper says that the Soviet Union and East European countries are helping the PLO to establish its own air force. The newspaper--AL-AHALI--writes that 32 Palestinian pilots and 60 technicians recently underwent courses in the Soviet Union, East Germany and Czechoslovakia. Our military correspondent has learned that Palestinian terrorists are undergoing pilot training in Libya.

'RESERVED' WEST BANK SUPPORT FOR AS-SADAT PEACE PLAN

TA181215Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Jul 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Personalities in Judaea and Samaria have recently expressed reserved support for President as-Sadat's peace program. In talks with Israeli military government personnel, they have said that, under certain conditions, they would be willing to support the Egyptian plan, even without the incorporation of the PLO. Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria, Arye Gus:

When President as-Sadat published his peace plan, the plan with the six points, it aroused only weak echoes in Judaea and Samaria. Nobody rushed to support it, although nobody publicly negated it. In the meantime, the contacts between Israel and Egypt have created new hopes in Judaea and Samaria, and hopes have begun to be heard that maybe, in spite of everything, the peace settlement is closer than they had thought at first. This morning, for example, the paper AL-QUDS wonders whether something has changed in the peace process; something which made the London meeting necessary. Has an opening for hope been made, whose results this time will be better than in the past, AL-QUDS asks.

The latest contacts between Israel and Egypt have also had another effect in Judaea and Samaria. Public figures have told senior military government personnel that they would be prepared to support the As-Sadat plan if a joint Egyptian-Israeli plan were to be formulated, even if the PLO did not agree to it. But, they emphasized that they need Egyptian backing. This approach is meant to be only an initial development. It springs from the evaluation that there is a secret agreement between Egypt and Jordan, and that both of them are working in close cooperation toward securing the best possible concessions from Israel. An additional factor affecting these people was the evaluation that, politically speaking, the strength of the PLO has weakened, and that the Egyptian program is purely an interim one. The claim of these elements is that, despite the fact that the Egyptian plan ignores the PLO, the main mission is to achieve the liberation of the lands. They believe that even the PLO will not oppose this. It should be stressed that the positions of these personalities are not practical and it should not be assumed that these positions will be overtly manifested; particularly since even the most moderate people in Judaea and Samaria cannot agree to self-rule under the aegis of Israel, not to mention acceptance of the principle of settlements.

WEST BANK PROTEST AGAINST LAND TAKEOVER

TA192200Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Jul 78 TA

[Excerpt] Another dispute over lands in Judaea and Samaria: In the municipality of Al-Birah dozens of the town's notables met this afternoon to protest the decision by the military government to issue an order banning construction on the lands around the IDF base in Bayt El. The municipality claims, in a manifesto sent to the minister of defense, that an appreciable section of the town's area was taken over in recent years by the military government in such a way that the municipality has no possibility of growing.

BURG: U.S. SEEKS TO UNDERMINE JEWISH SUPPORT

TA181749Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 18 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg today fiercely attacked the trends prevailing in Washington, whose aim is to split the Jewish nation and dissuade U.S. Jewry from supporting Israel. The interior minister appeared before the annual convention of the prison service officers. Correspondent Shelomo Raz brings excerpts from his words: [begin recording]

[Burg] I think that we have done everything we could so that the line between us and Washington and the line that has just been woven between us and Cairo will not be torn.

[Raz] Dr Burg expressed his opinion that the foreign minister is now facing a most difficult mission since he is meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister after Shim'on Peres and 'Ezer Weizman's meetings with President as-Sadat.

The interior minister strongly attacked the new trends which he thinks prevail in Washington. These trends are aimed at causing a split in the Jewish people and at dissuading U.S. Jewry from supporting Israel.

[Burg]...[Washington] invites leaders and pseudoleaders and deputy leaders and deputy deputy deputy leaders and talks to them so that they will not be the loyal and enthusiastic supporters of Israel as they have always been. I view this very seriously and I have no doubt that part of Egyptian President Andwar as-Sadat's public relations policy in the last few months follows the same line and direction as Washington's. [end recording]

STATEMENT ISSUED ON 21 JUNE HELICOPTER INCIDENT

LD191018Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 19 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The Imperial Armed Forces issued the following statement today:

On 21 June 1978, two helicopters of the Imperial Armed Forces, unarmed and without any observation or photographic equipment, on a training flight in the general Sabzevar-Mashhad region, were forced to fly above clouds because of heavy fog and unfavorable weather conditions. As a result they lost their way and by mistake entered the air space of the USSR. The helicopters were fired on by Soviet fighter aircraft. One of the pilots managed to land in Soviet territory with his damaged helicopter. The other helicopter, however caught fire as a result of the shooting and was destroyed along with its crew. The pilot and others on board the helicopter that landed have been delivered and returned to Iran by Soviet authorities thanks to the efforts of the Imperial Iranian Government. The helicopter itself will also be delivered soon.

Names of the crew of the helicopter that was destroyed are as follows: 1st Flight Lt Ebrahim Asadi, 2d Flight Lt 'Ali Asghar Ghaffari, Flight Assistant Khalil Tabrizi, Flight Assistant Abolfazl Soryani, Flight Assistant Hasan Tuni, 2d Warrant Officer 'Abbas Rudian, Sgt Asghar Rahani, Sgt Hoseyn Khoda'i.

BRIEFS

NEW SWISS AMBASSADOR--Tehran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY), 17 July--The new Swiss ambassador to the Imperial Court, Erik Lang, met Foreign Ministry Political Undersecretary Manuchehr Zelli at the ministry today. During the meeting the new ambassador presented copies of his credentials to Zelli. [Text] [Teheran PARS in English 1000 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD]

INDIA

DESAI HOLDS TALKS WITH LIBYA'S JALLUD 17 JULY

BK181157Y Delhi ISI in English 0915 GMT 18 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud of Libya had a 2-hour meeting with the prime minister on July 17 during which they discussed wideranging subjects, including the situation in the Arab world and Africa as well as bilateral cooperation, reports PTI.

The first high Libyan dignitary to visit India, Staff Major Jallud has expressed his desire to have a thorough exchange of views with Prime Minister Morarji Desai.

The two leaders met alone on July 17 and later joined their delegations. They carried out a review of bilateral cooperation and expressed satisfaction about the present stage of cooperation.

At the suggestion of Staff Major Jallud, the two sides agreed to set up two groups to go into the political and economic aspects of cooperation separately.

On the economic group India will be represented by Industries Minister George Fernandes and on the political group by External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Libya will be represented by Jum'ah Salim al-Arbash, for electricity in the first group and by Muhammad Ahmad al-Manqush in the political group.

Staff Major Jallud pointed out that Indo-Libyan cooperation was not a temporary one. It was based on the cultural and historical heritage of the Arab and Indian peoples.

He said that he had selected as members of his delegation those who were responsible for the economic, scientific and technical aspects of development in his country.

Desai assured the Libyan leader that India would be willing to cooperate with Libya in new areas and intensify the existing cooperation.

In the political field, Prime Minister Desai defined the objectives of India's foreign policy of greater cooperation, understanding and freer movement of people with neighbouring countries as well as more trade without too many artificial restrictions.

He told the Libyan leader that India had established cordial, cooperative relations with its immediate neighbours and was extending it gradually to Southeast Asia and Africa which has a big chunk of the nonaligned countries.

Further Talks

BK190949Y Delhi ISI in English 0837 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Indian and Libyan leaders had a detailed exchange of views on various international issues in New Delhi on July 18, reports AIR [All India Radio].

Among these were the West Asia situation and India's relations with its neighbours, particularly Pakistan with which Libya has been having close ties. External Affairs Minister Vajpayee is understood to have referred to considerable improvement in Indo-Pakistan relations. He, however, expressed his disappointment that the question of Kashmir should have been raised at the recent Asian Islamic conference in Karachi and an attempt made to compare it with the Palestinian question. He said there was no basis for such a comparison. It did not strengthen whatever the case Pakistan thought it had, but on the contrary, might weaken the Palestinian cause. The Libyan leaders are understood to have agreed that there was no comparison between the two.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of increasing cooperation between the nonaligned countries by extending preferential treatment if necessary. It should be an effort of the movement as a whole to solve bilateral disputes between member countries they felt.

Libyan Vice President Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmed Jallud had another meeting with Morarji Desai on July 18. Vajpayee also had a separate meeting with him. They are believed to have generally gone over issues likely to come up at next week's nonaligned conference in Belgrade.

A set of collected works of Mahatma Gandhi was presented by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, minister for external affairs, to Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmed Jallud at Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 18.

Sign Agreements

BK191614Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] A series of agreements were signed between India and Libya in New Delhi today which were described as a big leap toward expanding bilateral cooperation. One of the agreements and a protocol were on cooperation between the two countries on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. These were signed by the visiting Libyan vice president, Staff Major Jallud, and the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai. Other agreements are for setting up a joint Indo-Libyan electricity company and the setting up of thermal power stations in Libya, and to extend the most-favored-nation treatment to each other. A joint commission is to be set up at ministerial level for cooperation in industrial, scientific and technical fields. Another joint collaboration will be in laying a 500-km railway line in Libya. Two institutes will be set up in India for Arabic studies and medicine under a joint program. The AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent says the agreements follow detailed discussions between the Libyan delegation and Indian leaders.

Earlier, talking to newsmen, Staff Major Jallud spoke of the warm Indo-Libyan relations, both countries being in the nonalined movement. He said today's agreements open up vast horizons for bilateral cooperation. The Libyan leader left New Delhi for Agra this evening.

EXPERTS DISCUSS INDO-LIBYAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

BK190951Y Delhi ISI in English 0833 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] A joint working group of experts from India and Libya met in New Delhi on the morning of July 18 to identify specific projects in the field of science, technology, trade and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

George Fernandes, the minister of industry, led the Indian side at the meeting and Jum'ah Salim al-Arbash, secretary of electricity and member of the General People's Congress of Libya, represented his government at the group. Musa Ahmad Abu Puraywah, secretary of planning of Libya, was also present. Senior officials, ministries and public undertakings of the two countries are taking part in the meeting.

Soon after introductory remarks by the two ministers, separate sub-groups were formed to discuss details and submit their reports, which will be considered at a working group meeting. One sub-group will deal with electricity projects, science and technology and industry; and the other with trade, commerce and economic cooperation.

In his introductory remarks, George Fernandes said that India would like to take part in various spheres of economic activity in Libya, specifically in areas of power generation, industry including textiles, light and heavy engineering, roads, airports, railways and housing. He recalled his visit to Libya in October last when a memorandum of understanding was signed at Tripoli identifying areas of cooperation between the two countries. He said that several measures had already been taken in pursuance of the memorandum and that it was now necessary to expand the areas of economic and technical cooperation.

Jam'ah Salim al-Arbash expressed his confidence that the meeting would result in identifying new areas of fruitful cooperation in various fields, particularly in respect of industry, electricity and roads between the two countries. Libya, he said, could benefit from India's experience in technical and scientific projects.

FRANCE'S OLIVIER STIRN CONVEYS GISCARD INVITATION TO DESAI

BK190919Y Delhi ISI in English 0842 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Olivier Stirn, French secretary of state now on a visit to India, conveyed a message from his prime minister to Prime Minister of India Morarji Desai inviting him to pay an official visit to France. Stirn said this was one of the purposes of his visit to India, reports PTI.

STIRN, KAUSHIK DISCUSS FRANCO-INDIAN AVIATION COOPERATION

BK190921Y Delhi ISI in English 0843 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Possibilities of further cooperation in the field of civil aviation between India and France were discussed in New Delhi on July 18 when Olivier Stirn, secretary of state for foreign affairs of France, called on Union Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Purushottam Kaushik.

Stirn said that France was grateful to India as India was one of the first countries to choose the airbus for operation on its domestic routes. It was a gesture on the part of India to show its confidence in an aircraft which had not established itself at that time. He also offered French cooperation in the modernisation of Indian airports.

Kaushik said that they were satisfied with performance of the airbus and, as and when need arose for more aircraft, they would certainly consider it. He said we were conscious of the fact that our airports needed further improvement. Since France had developed a high degree of sophistication in this field, India would avail of French expertise when the need arose.

Kaushik expressed the hope that the inflow of tourist traffic from France would further increase. He felt that if more young tourists and scholars were encouraged to come to India, this would promote still better understanding and friendship between the two countries.

FRANCE READY TO COOPERATE WITH INDIA IN NUCLEAR FIELD

BK191015Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] France is ready to cooperate with India in the field of nuclear energy. The visiting French secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mr Olivier Stirn, told newsmen in New Delhi yesterday that he sees no difficulty in this regard as India has made it clear that it will use nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes.

Replying to a question, he said India has not made any request to France for the supply of enriched uranium. As already reported, the two countries yesterday signed an agreement for cooperation in science and technology.

DESAI REPEATS THAT INDIA WILL NOT PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

BK191338Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] India has undertaken not to use the material produced at the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station for the manufacture of any nuclear weapon or any nuclear device. This was stated by the prime minister in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today. The undertaking has been given under the [words indistinct] agreement entered into with the International Atomic Energy Agency in November last in connection with the purchase of heavy water from the Soviet Union.

The prime minister, in another written reply, informed the house that [word indistinct] drilling and exploration for uranium is being undertaken in Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and Himachal Pradesh.

GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING SPECIAL COURT TO TRY GANDHI

BK191306Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The center is actively considering the question of setting up a special court to try Mrs Gandhi. This was stated by the minister of state for home affairs, Mr S.D. Patil, in the Lok Sabha today. He said some specific proposals for legislation have been received by the government. The government has decided to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court regarding the validity of such legislation.

LOK SABHA REPEALS MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL SECURITY ACT

BK1916022 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The Lok Sabha has passed unanimously the bill to repeal the Maintenance of Internal Security Act [MISA], 1971. The minister of state for home affairs, Mr Dhanik Lal Mandal, who piloted the bill, told the house that the center has advised the state governments to provide enough safeguards against the misues of the provisions of preventive detention laws enacted by them to deal with antisocial elements. He said the forthcoming chief minister's conference will review the recent deterioration in the law and order situation. It will decide on steps to effectively contain the activites of economic offenders and those resorting to violence.

Mr Mandal explained that the 45th constitution amendment bill provides for review of the causes of detenus after every 2 months. It also insures that no future government can take away the liberties of citizens. Referring to the demand for setting up special cells to look after the dependents of the MISA detenus who died under detention during the emergency, Mr Mandal pointed out that there is already a scheme to provide a monthly pension of 200 rupees to such dependents.

PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC FRONT TAKES OFFICE IN MAHARASHTRA

BK1813102 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jul 78 BK

[Text] In Maharashtra, the newborn Progressive Democratic Front took office today with the swearing in of Chief Minister Mr Sharad Pawar and five other ministers. This is the first non-Congress government in the state. The governor, Mr Sadiq Ali, administered the oath of office and secrecy at a function held at Raj Bhavan in Bombay this afternoon. The other ministers who took the oath are Mr Sundarrao Solanke of the newly-formed Maharashtra Progressive Congress Legislature Party; Mr Uttamrao Patil, Mr (Nihal Ahmed) and Mr (Arjanrao Kasturi), all belonging to the Janata Party; and Mr (B.A. Deshmukh) of PWP [Peasants and Workers Party].

The new coalition government in Maharashtra has the support of 180 in the house of 288 members. The function was attended by among others, Janata Party President Mr Chandra Shekhar and two general secretaries of the party, Mr Madhu Limaye and Mr Nanaji Deshmukh. The Congress, the Congress-I and the Forward Bloc, however, stayed away from it.

Earlier, Mr Sharad Pawar was unanimously elected leader of the Progressive Democratic Front which was formed this afternoon. Apart from the Janata Party and Mr Pawar's Maharashtra Progressive Legislature Congress Party, the other parties in the new alliance are the Peasants and Workers Party, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], the RPI [Republican Party of India] -Kamle Group; the RPI-Khobragade Group and the Maharashtra Socialist Congress.

NEPAL

DELHI RADIO REPORTS 500 FEARED DEAD IN FLOODS

BK1909462 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] In Nepal, over 500 people are feared killed following a major breach in the embankment of the Bakaiya River 2 days ago. Five bodies have been recovered so far.

The Nepalese minister without portfolio, Mr Damodar Shamshere Rana, said 20 villages and a town have been submerged by the flood waters.

Mr Rana said that relief and rescue operations are in full swing. Mr Rana informed that the Government of India has in a communication assured Nepal all kinds of help to meet the situation.

Home Minister Makes Statement

BK191531Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The home and Panchayat minster, Mr Khadga Bahadur Singh, informed the (?house) that because of incessant rains from July 14th, the flood waters in [words indistinct] Gaur Bazar, the headquarters of Rautahat District on July 16th flooding the bazar and nearby villages. Water had entered all offices as well as houses of the people and about 850 houses [words indistinct] were destroyed rendering 4,500 people homeless. He informed the (?house) that [words indistinct] south of the Nepal-India border.

The home and Panchayat minister, Mr Singh, said that four people died in the floods and innumerable head of cattle were lost. He said [words indistinct] to meet again on Sunday.

Protest To India Issued

BK191537Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Katmandu, July 19 (AFP)--Nepal has strongly protested to India about the damage caused by floods in Gaur Bazar in Rautahat District, 180 kilometres (116 miles) south-east of Katmandu and urged it to open the sluice gates built on Ring Dam in Indian territory "without delay."

Official sources here stated that four sluice gates built on the Ring Dam in Bargania District of Bihar adjoining Gaur were not opened when the waters of the flood-swollen Bagmati and Bakaiya Rivers apparently inundated the Nepalese areas. Over 4,500 people were rendered homeless, 800 houses collapsed and at least five people died.

The Nepalese Foreign Ministry yesterday summoned Indian Ambassador to Nepal N.B. Menon and made a protest about damage caused by water logging. It was learnt that the Foreign Ministry made it clear to Mr Menon that, under the bilateral understanding, the sluice gates of the Ring Dam should be opened without delay and necessary steps taken to put a stop to the harm and destruction being done on the Nepalese side of the border.

Drawing attention to the possibility of further destruction this summer, the Foreign Ministry had reminded the Indian envoy that the same circumstances should not be allowed to arise again, it was further learnt.

Mr Drona Shunsher Rana, member of the national Panchayat--Nepal's unicameral legislature--from Rautahat District after inspecting the flooded areas that said he had not seen and heard of such heavy flooding in his district for 50 years. The construction of the metres (yards) high [as received] and ten metre yard wide Ring Dam to control floods in Indian territory was the main cause of flooding in Nepalese territory, he added.

He said "communications in the whole district have been cut off by about two metres of flood water and extensive damage has also been caused to the local hospital." He believed when communications were restored the casualties could be assessed.

PAKISTAN

FORMER BHUTTO CABINET MINISTERS' PETITION DISMISSED

BK191205Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1151 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Karachi, July 19 (AFP)--The Sind High Court today dismissed a petition filed jointly by two former ministers of deposed Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's cabinet, challenging their detention under martial law.

The court in its judgement observed that the detention of former Finance Minister Abdul Hafiz Pirzada and former Communication Minister Mumtaz Bhutto, a cousin of Mr Bhutto, could not be termed as unlawful as stated in their petition.

FIVE JOURNALISTS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED IN KARACHI

BK190144Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0140 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Karachi, July 19 (AFP)--Five striking newspaper workers and journalists including the president of Pakistan's Federal Union of Journalists, Mr Minhaj Barna, were arrested at the Press Club late last night. The charges were against public safety and maintenance of public order. They were lodged in a local jail and detained for a period of 30 days.

They had gone on strike to press an eight-point demand which included reinstatement of over two dozen employees of the National Press Trust, restoration of the opposition paper daily MUSAWAT KARACHI and two other periodicals.

FLOODING IN NORTH RENDERS THOUSANDS HOMELESS

BK191153Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1146 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Karachi, July 19 (AFP)--Over 3,000 huts collapsed in the recent rains in Sukkur city, 480 kilometres (300 miles) north of here, rendering some 25,000 people homeless, according to an official communique last night. The affected people have been lodged in relief camps set up by the government.

KARACHI DAWN COMMENTS ON UPCOMING NONALINED MEETING

BK171523Y Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 78 p 7 BK

[Editorial: "Defining Nonalignment"]

[Text] When the foreign ministers of nonaligned countries meet in Belgrade on July 22, they will once again find themselves faced with the basic question of whether to redefine the concept of nonalignment. Of course, this might be a mere formality, for the original connotations of nonalignment are no longer relevant. But by sticking to the technical criteria laid down by its founding fathers in Belgrade in 1961 that a member nation "should not be a member of a multilateral military alliance concluded in the context of great power conflicts," the nonaligned group has effectively excluded a number of states eager to enter its fold. The nonaligned movement as it exists today is an anomaly which might lose a meaningful existence unless it comes to terms with the changing realities of international politics. Born in the midst of the cold war when there existed a "state of international tension with its danger of an atomic war," to quote the Belgrade communique of 1961, the concept of nonalignment could at least be explained in terms of the bipolar pattern of international politics.

But even in the early years of its genesis, the objective criteria laid down for membership were full of inherent contradictions and allowed countries totally aligned militarily, politically, economically and ideologically with one of the superpowers to enter the movement so long as their relationship with their benefactor was on a strictly bilateral basis. As such, states which enjoy close ties with the Soviet Union or the United States, but are not members of a multilateral military pact such as Cuba, Ethiopia, South Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Zaire, have found their place in the nonaligned group. Though not being in a multilateral military grouping, some nonaligned countries have at times been working actively and overtly to advance the political and strategic cause of one superpower against the other. On the other hand, countries whose foreign policies reflect more accurately the fundamentals of nonalignment despite their formal membership in a military pact, such as Romania and Pakistan, find themselves excluded from this international forum. There is no denying the fact that military alliances, be they CENTO, NATO or the Warsaw Pact, have largely, or even wholly, ceased to be relevant in the changed context of the multipolar world today, and this was acknowledged by implication in the communique issued at the Colombo summit in 1976 which welcomed the progress detente had made.

This basic incongruity in the approach of the nonaligned states can lead to the erosion of this movement and destroy whatever little cohesion it has developed in its outlook towards Third World problems. The mere fact that the "criteria issue" as this has come to be called, takes up so much of the members' time at every nonaligned meeting testifies to the failure of the group to resolve its inner conflicts. It also testifies to the strength of the arguments put forward by those who have been seeking membership. That some members support the claim of these "technically aligned" states, such as Romania and Pakistan, simply goes to prove that many of the nonaligned countries themselves are now questioning the yardstick they have used to decide which country has the right credentials to enter their fraternity. Moreover, by accepting the contention of the Romanian and Pakistani Governments that in their foreign policies they follow an independent line and subscribe to the basic tenets of nonalignment, many nonaligned countries are challenging the prevailing views of the hardliners. What certainly finds no justification is the discrepancy in the decisions which have been taken in respect of membership, observer status or guest participation. Despite the demise of SEATO and active canvassing by ASEAN members, the Philippines was denied entry as a member, whereas Australia, which is still in ANZUS, was invited as an official guest to the 1975 nonaligned foreign ministers' meet in Lima because the Labour Party, which showed greater independence in approach, happened to be in power in Canberra. But in 1976, when Mr Fraser replaced Mr Whitlam as the prime minister, Australia forfeited its guest status in the nonaligned group.

In the context of this subjectivity of approach in the nonaligned movement towards the membership issue, the lobby with the greatest leverage tends to play the most decisive role. Pakistan has expressed its desire to attend the forthcoming conference at Belgrade, but the Indian foreign minister has made it clear that as long as Pakistan is a member of CENTO it can only attend as a guest and not as an observer. How the other nonaligned members respond to a request by Pakistan, assuming one is formally made, will also determine whether or not the anomaly concerning the eligibility criteria for membership in the nonaligned movement is going to be removed.

SRI LANKA

NEW CONSTITUTION SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT

BK191605Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 19 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, July 19 (AFP)--A new republican constitution is to be enacted in Sri Lanka replacing the present one adopted six years ago.

Legislation to repeal the old constitution and replace it with a new one will be presented to Parliament next Tuesday [24 July] by Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, official sources said.

A new constitution is to be adopted in accordance with a mandate given to the ruling United National Party at the general election last year according to a bill embodying the new constitution gazetted last night.

While ratifying the republican principles of representative democracy, the new constitution will assure Freedom, equality, justice, fundamental human rights and the independence of the judiciary, the bill states. It will also incorporate the French-style presidential system of government adopted in February this year and preserve the pre-eminent position given to Buddhism, the religion of the majority.

The new constitution will accord "national language" status to the minority Tamil language and provide for proportional representation in Parliament and referundums on basic issues. The new constitution has been drafted on the basis of recommendations made by a parliamentary select committee after hearing representations made by political parties, religious bodies and other organisations.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party of former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike is expected to oppose the new constitution which seeks to replace the one which was enacted in 1972 during her regime. Mrs Bandaranaike and the deputy leader of her party, Mr Maitripala Senanayake, who served on the select committee, submitted a dissenting report. They said the new provisions will deprive Parliament of its supremacy and charged that the office of president has been made omnipotent with maximum state power vested in the hands of one individual. They have also opposed the provision for proportional representation in the legislature among other matters.

The minority Tamil United Liberation Front, the largest party in the opposition front, which refused to serve on the select committee, has decided to meet next week to decide on its attitude to the new constitution.

BRIEFS

INDIAN URANIUM DEPOSITS FOUND--Uranium deposits have been found in Meghalaya and Assam. According to official sources, significant concentration of uranium has been found in a number of places along the southern fringes of the Shillong Plateau. Recent explorations by the Atomic Minerial Division have also detected the presence of uranium in some localities of the Garo and Khasi Hills of Meghalaya and (?Karbiguan) District of Assam. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Jul 78 BK]

PAKISTANI ANTILOCUST OPERATIONS--Intensive locust control operations against hoppers remained in progress in Sind Province. A desert area of about 8 square kilometers was sprayed as a preventive measure. The area along the Indo-Pakistan border was surveyed by air but no locust swarms were detected. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Jul 78 BK]

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